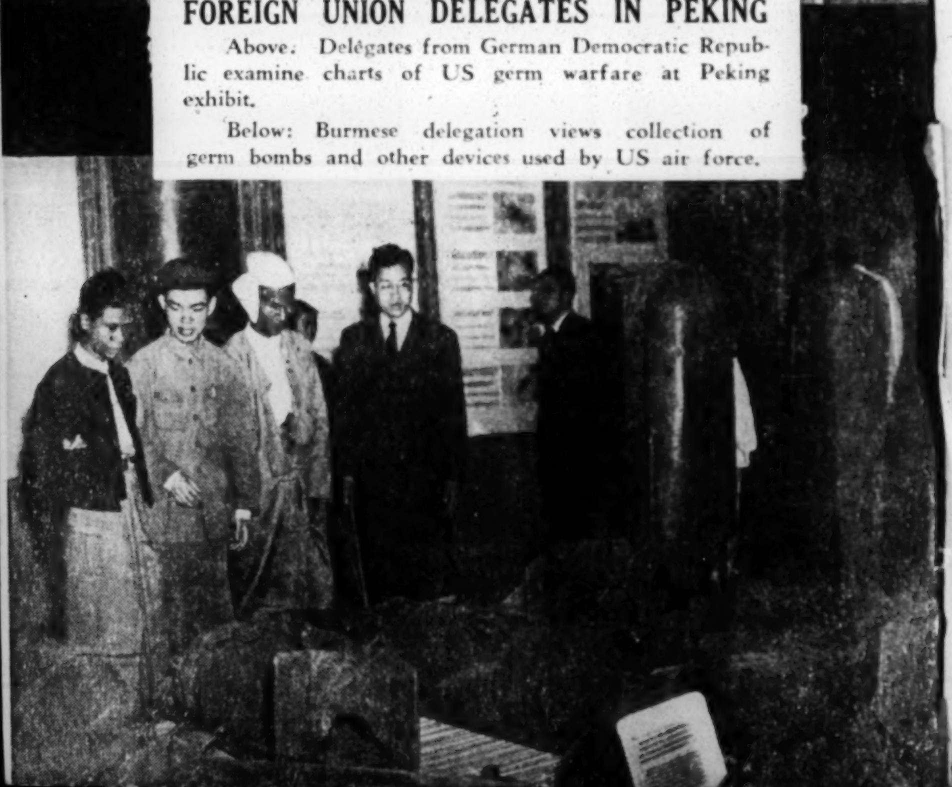
monthly

密勒氏
評論報

FOREIGN UNION DELEGATES IN PEKING

Above. Delegates from German Democratic Republic examine charts of US germ warfare at Peking exhibit.

Below: Burmese delegation views collection of germ bombs and other devices used by US air force.



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China Monthly Review

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August 1952

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LETTERS

From the People

Comments from readers on current topics are cordially invited: their opinions, however, do not necessarily represent the views of the *China Monthly Review*.

ADMIRATION

To the Editor:

Hundreds of foreign trade union delegates from all parts of the world visited China recently on the invitation of the All China Federation of Labor, and they were deeply moved by the tremendous progress we have achieved since liberation.

The delegates made many statements during their stay in Peking. T. Wright, head of the Australian delegation, gave a speech over Radio Peking on May 11. He said in his conclusion:

"In our own country, Australia, the requirements of the national budget with its emphasis on expenditure for war preparations, have led to a drastic curtailment of public works, housing, education and other needs of the people. We were pleased therefore to note that in people's China there is intensive building activity to be seen everywhere."

His speech clearly demonstrated that people in capitalist countries are living under great difficulties, and our splendid achievements since liberation have won great admiration from all the peace-loving people of the world. They are looking to us for direction and are studying the course we have followed. I am proud that I am a Chinese.

HSU CHENG-CHUAN

Nanking

MORAL CLEAN-UP

To the Editor:

As a worker of a state-owned enterprise, I have been busy the past several months participating in the San Fan movement which aimed at wiping out such old social evils as corruption, waste and bureaucracy and paved the way for a speedy industrialization of China.

Through this housecleaning movement, everyone, I believe, has more or less lifted his moral standard. Of course, there is no exception for myself.

With an old feudal family as my background, my mind was full of corrupt thoughts in the past. Sometimes, I even hated myself foolishly, and in addition, I was antagonistic against others who were capable of getting extra income. In working, I often took public goods such as writing paper, cotton

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string, etc., for my own use. Furthermore, I frequently quarreled with my colleagues over trifling things. Before the San Fan movement was started in my organization, I was never conscious of these gross blunders I had committed.

Through this moral clean-up, I have come to know that these small mistakes, if unchecked, would have caused a hindrance to the construction of the country. Now I am determined to reform myself thoroughly in order to be a useful citizen in new China.

WONG SZE-LIANG

Shanghai

IN CHUNGKING

To the Editor:

The Wu Fan movement has been unfolded on a large-scale among local business circles during the past two months. More than 1,000 students of our university have been actively participating in this great movement. Relying on the masses of the people, we have achieved a fundamental success in the face to face struggle with those businessmen who have been operating outside the law.

According to preliminary statistics, nearly 80 illegal business or-

Chungking-Chengtu Railway

To the Editor:

A colorful and impressive ceremony marked the opening of the new Chungking-Chengtu Railway in the Southwest on July 1.

The construction of this railroad has already given impetus to Szechuen's once crippled economy. Many new enterprises have sprung up, retail prices of numerous commodities have been reduced and cost of transportation has been greatly cut. For instance, sugar can now be brought by rail from Neikiang, its producing center, to Chungking at nearly one-tenth the former cost of transportation. As a result, rural-urban interflow of goods has been greatly enhanced.

The plan for this important artery in the Southwest dates back to 1906. During the past four decades, the Szechuenese heard a great deal of talk about the building of this railway but they never saw a single rail laid. Shortly after the liberation of the Southwest, the people's government started to build this important railway.

The construction work began in Chungking on June 15, 1950, with tens of thousands of soldiers, workers and peasants working on it.

With the assistance of Soviet experts, the railway builders made tremendous progress. On June 13, rail-laying along the 505-kilometer Chungking-Chengtu Railway reached the terminus of Chengtu, 17 days ahead of schedule.

The significance of the construction of this railway cannot be overlooked. It was begun at a time when the mainland had not been completely liberated and the national economy had not been stabilized. And it has been accomplished during the important program of supporting the People's Volunteers who are holding off the American invaders in Korea.

CHEN CHU-LIANG

Szechuen University
Chengtu

ganizations, such as "Thursday Party," "Import and Export Club," "Technical Research Association," "Ship Manufacture Group," "Treasurer's Society," "Nine Dragons' Club," etc., were uncovered, more than 1,500 "tigers" [as the really big crooks are called] arrested and about 250,000 cases of illegal acts, large or small, unearthed.

Through this great movement, we have come to know the true countenance of the illegal businessmen.

Therefore, we, young students of this new era, have made up our minds to reform ourselves thoroughly and shoulder the huge task of building a free new China.

CHIU HSU-HSIANG
University of Chungking

FOR Accurate, Analytical & Forthright Interpretation of Events in India
FOR Detailed Information of the Struggle of India's Millions for Bread and Freedom
FOR Sharp Exposure of Nefarious Plans of Anglo-American Imperialism and Their Agents in India

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NEW THOUGHTS

To the Editor:

The movement to remold our old ways of thinking was unfolded on a large-scale at Nankai University in Tientsin in April. Through this movement to combat the old patterns of thinking, the political awareness of the great majority of students has been highly elevated.

Many students, especially those from well-to-do families, have felt ashamed of living on the exploitation of others. No longer despising labor, they began washing their own clothes for the first time. Some students who were extravagant in their living

(Continued on Page 202)

BOUND VOLUMES

A limited number of bound volumes of the China Monthly Review—Volume 120-121 January to December 1951—are now available at ¥75,000 delivered within China and US$4.25 for abroad per volume. Bound volumes for the second half of 1951—Vol. 121, are available separately at ¥40,000 for delivery in China and US$2.25 for delivery abroad. Each volume is indexed by subject.

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China Monthly Review
160 Yenan Road, East
Shanghai, 0, China

The Month in Review

- *China's Educational System*
- *Peasants' Taxes Lowered*
- *The Bamboo Curtain*

Rebuilding China's Universities

WHEN the country was liberated three years ago one of the many matters requiring urgent attention was the nation's educational system which had long been suffering from both starvation and malnutrition. As the years passed, the Kuomintang government spent less and less of the national budget on education while an increasing portion of what it did spend was devoted to strengthening "discipline" in the schools.

Academic freedom rapidly disappeared, most departments operated on a shoe string with little or no equipment or other teaching materials. Meanwhile, the organs of government repression in the schools flourished, with the government-appointed deans of discipline frequently exercising more control over the schools than the presidents.

Immediately following liberation the people's government tackled this problem, concentrating on the more urgent matters first. School budgets were raised substantially. For the first time in a decade professors and other school employees were decently paid. An extensive program to help needy students was begun. All the old repressive machinery with which the Kuomintang attempted to keep the students in "line" was thrown out.

EACH year sees further progress in the rebuilding and expanding of the country's educational system. The most recent development is the amalgamation of universities which is currently underway. The plan is already being put into effect in Peking and in Hangchow and preparations are now being made for similar amalgamations and reshuffling of departments among universities in Shanghai and in other educational centers.

The primary reason for this step is to enable the colleges to turn out more and better qualified graduates, particularly in such fields as engineering, medicine and the sciences. The nation-wide reconstruction program is demanding more and more trained personnel and the colleges and universities cannot begin to supply enough graduates.

For instance, there are now 42 engineering colleges in China and, under the present working system, the maximum number of new students they can accept is 15,000. By reshufflung these 42 colleges, it will be possible to take in 29,000 students next term. Kuo Mo-jo, president of the Academia Sinica, recently emphasized the urgency of this need, pointing out that within the next few years China will need about 170,000 college trained engineers and about 500,000 middle-level engineering technicians!

A second reason for the amalgamation is that it will increase teaching efficiency and improve the quality of the instruction. A survey of institutions of higher education since liberation has shown that the educational system inherited from the Kuomintang and the foreigners (At the time of liberation there were 21 foreign missionary-run universities in China.) left much to be desired in many ways.

For instance, not many colleges have departments of mining engineering, although a number have professors trained in this field who are now teaching other engineering subjects. The University of Shantung in Tsingtao, on the other hand, has a mining engineering department but has not a single professor specifically trained in this branch of engineering.

By combining colleges taken from various universities into separate specialized institutions, more efficient use can be made of equipment and teaching staff.

In Peking three well-known universities are being amalgamated. The engineering colleges of Yenching, Tsinghua and National Peking universities are being combined into one huge engineering college at Tsinghua. National Peking University will remain a university and absorb the art, law and science colleges of Tsinghua and Yenching. Yenching University as such will go out of existence.

The way in which the amalgamation of the universities is being carried out is in itself quite interesting and illustrative of the way things are done in new China. The need for this step was recognized by the educational authorities quite soon after liberation but, instead of simply pushing it through on the basis of orders from the top, the move was delayed until it had been discussed at great length by the students and faculties of the various universities and until all were agreed as to the desirability of amalgamation.

Actually, the government first proposed an amalgamation in 1950, a year after the liberation, when it suggested that National Peking University and Tsinghua combine. However, nothing was done after the professors of both universities rejected the proposals.

Now, after two years of discussion, in which the central point has been that the schools must serve the people as best they can, the amalgamation is being carried out among Peking's major universities with the full support and cooperation of the faculties. In fact, the decision to amalgamate was finalized only after the professors themselves suggested it to the educational authorities.

ALONG with the amalgamation of the universities will come reorganization of many of the courses, a number of which are not at all suitable for the new China. This is particularly true in the technical colleges. For instance, the old curriculum in the engineering colleges mainly dealt with installing and repairing imported equipment, with little attention paid to manufacturing.

However, the reorganizing of the curriculum is a difficult job and needs the combined efforts of many professors so it will be some time yet before this job can be completed.

Another job for the future, which has been started in a small way, is the physical removal of some colleges and universities from the coastal areas to the interior. Most universities, including practically all of the foreign missionary schools, are located in the larger cities along the coast and on the main rivers. This results in a heavy "saturation" in a relatively small section of the country, while vast hinterland areas have no institutions of higher education.

In Chinese Turkestan—a vast area with a population of 5,000,000—there is not a single college or university, while in Shanghai, which also has a population of about 5,000,000, there are still 26 colleges and universities. Before liberation, the situation was even more out of balance as the city then had 54 colleges and universities. A number have already been transferred elsewhere or combined with other institutions.

Education, which has had a long tradition in China, is experiencing a renaissance which is comparable to nothing in the past. The amalgamation of the universities is one of the most recent manifestations.

Peasants Pay Lower Taxes

THE slashing of agricultural taxes throughout the country and the abolition of all local taxes is another step toward a unified, progressive agricultural tax system in China. Long bound to a feudal land system which exacted an endless number of taxes, levies, "gifts" and services, China's peasants are today paying a tax which is both reasonable and equitable.

The new cut in agricultural taxes, announced by the government on June 16, further explodes the myth spread abroad by the Western press which regularly reports that China's peasants are weighed down by huge tax levies. The new rates are a continuation of the government's policy of lowering agricultural taxes, which were reduced in 1950 by 25 percent below the 1949 level.

Taxes are based on the average annual income of the members of an agricultural family and the majority of peasants will be paying from 11 to 15 percent. The minimum rate is seven percent.

The fact that the majority will pay in the top bracket is indicative of the growing prosperity of China's farmers since liberation and land reform, which, in turn, have been responsible for some of the best crops in the country's history. It is expected that only those farmers whose crops may be effected by natural disaster, lack of manpower on the farm or physical disabilities, and families of Chinese volunteers in Korea and People's Liberation Army men will fall in the lower tax brackets.

The peasants are comparing their situation now with that under the Kuomintang. During Chiang Kai-shek's rule there were a host of taxes to pay. In addition to handing over from 50 to 80 percent of a harvest to the landlord, the peasant was forced to pay from 30 to 60 percent of what was left to the Kuomintang government. Today there are no landlords in China and aside from paying the one government tax, the peasant has his entire crop for himself and his family.

The new lowered taxes come at a time when bumper crops are anticipated all over the country. This means an even greater "take home" harvest than last year and is certain to result in a further upward swing in the rural economy next year.

Under the Kuomintang the yearly spiral was downward. As the exactions of Chiang's government increased, the farmers became discouraged since they could find no way out. Thus, their "labor enthusiasm" declined, as did their available capital for reinvestment in better seeds, new tools, fertilizers, etc. Liberation broke the cycle and today the rural economy is spiralling upwards as the farmers' expanding income increases their working morale and efficiency and enables them to "plow back" ever greater investments into the land, resulting in still larger harvests.

This situation is not without national repercussions. As the farmers' purchasing power rises, China's industry is hard pressed to supply rural demands. Thus a favorable situation is created for a steady yearly industrial expansion.

Where is the "Bamboo Curtain?"

AMERICAN officialdom is fond of complaining about the "bamboo curtain" which it claims has been erected by China's new government to prevent contact between the Chinese and American peoples.

Such complaints are inevitably accompanied by sanctimonious statements to the effect that if one's position is righteous he has nothing to hide or fear. Few people have had doubts but what a "curtain" of some sort has actually existed for some time and that it has hampered free contact between the peoples of China and the West. The only point at issue has been its location and actual ownership.

Recently we have had some personal experience with this so-called "bamboo curtain" and are now in a position to report a few details about where it is and how it operates. For the past month or so we have been receiving quite a few letters from readers in America complaining of non receipt of their copies of the **Review**. To make sure that there was no slip up at this end, we double checked all along the line and found nothing amiss.

However, as soon as readers began checking at their end, the "mystery" became rather less mysterious. Several bookstores reported that the US customs had been holding up copies, sometimes a month or more, apparently thus hoping that the magazines would be outdated and of less interest to American readers.

Aside from our personal experiences there recently has been further evidence that the "curtain" really exists and that every attempt is being made to tighten it. On May 1 it was reported from Washington that the State Department had banned travel to the Soviet Union and several Eastern European countries. Travel to China, it was revealed, had previously been prohibited. The announcement also said that while travel by American citizens to some countries would be permitted under special circumstances, travel to China was absolutely banned.

Thus, we can see that when Secretary Acheson and his colleagues speak of a "bamboo curtain" separating the American and Chinese peoples they know whereof they speak, since it is of their own making.

SO far as China is concerned, the door is open. Hardly a month passes without at least one visiting foreign delegation passing through Shanghai alone. In the past couple of months there have been groups of businessmen, workers, women, artists and writers, professional men and others of varying political beliefs from India, Britain, Canada, Australia, Japan, various European and Latin American countries and even America touring China.

The "curtain" is not here. Far from it, the Chinese people are proud of the new country they are building and welcome visitors from abroad. Not only do they gladly show them what they have done and are doing, but they ask for their suggestions and criticisms. Visitors from America are just as welcome as those from other countries and, we believe, the people of America would welcome the opportunity of sending representatives of various walks of life to inspect the new China and report back to them.

The "curtain" certainly exists, but, rather than being around China, it encircles America and is steadily being drawn tighter by a government which, to use its own words, is afraid to let its own people know what life is like on the other side.

◆

FRONT COVER

Tsui Yu-hsia, a model peasant, holds a shock of her bumper wheat harvest.

BACK COVER

A paper cut-out from Chahar province. This type differs from the typical Northwest ones in that it is cut with a knife, rather than with scissors. Made of bright colored paper, these cut-outs are used for wall decorations.

U.S. WAR CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES POW CAMP LIFE

FRANK NOEL

FRANK Noel, veteran Associated Press photographer, has been a prisoner of war in Korea since November 1950. A Pulitzer prize winner, Noel was recently awarded an Overseas Press Club award for his pictures of fellow prisoners, which Ridgway tried to ban from the US press. Noel has written an article on the daily life of POW's in Korea which was carried by Hsinhua on June 13 and 14. Noel, who is 53 years old, lives at 152 Western Avenue, Albany, New York. He was working as an AP photographer with the 1st Marine Division at the time of his capture. Following is Noel's detailed account of POW life, slightly abridged.

INTERNAL functions within the camps are run by the POW's themselves. Camp-wide elections, usually held at 60-day intervals, determine the camp leaders and various committee heads. Elections are by secret ballot and the usual campaigning and political palaver goes along with these elections, same as in any small town in America.

A high office is the chairman, and the main governing body is called the Daily Life Committee. The chairman is the liaison man between the POW's and the volunteers. Any dealings Chinese have with POW's are carried on through the Daily Life Committee. Military rank has no bearing on the elections and the POW's elect whoever they think is the best man for a specific job.

Sub-committees include sports, food, sanitation and work details and this unit operates down through the company and into squad level. Considering the circumstances, the Chinese have been fair and lenient and often provided extra rations and sport facilities over and above the requirements stipulated in the Geneva Convention regarding rules regulating the conduct and care of prisoners of war.

All American and British national and religious holidays are observed and extra basic rations of meat, flour, potatoes are passed out by the Chinese quartermaster. And occasionally candy

Frank Noel

and apples are thrown in for good measure. POW's also share the celebrations observed by the Chinese and are glad when these occur.

POW's prepare their own food and have complete run of the large Chinese-type kitchens, bake or steam their own bread and butcher pigs. Beef is killed by the Chinese, and fish and chickens are brought from nearby China. When the camps were first established, the Chinese prepared food for the POW's during the early months. The POW's preferred the American style of cooking and asked the Chinese if the prisoners themselves could have a hand in the food preparation and make suggestions and occasionally have a strictly American-type meal. The Chinese met this request, and later turned over the complete operation of the kitchen to the POW's.

Strict cleanliness is not only observed in the kitchen but also throughout the camp. All foods are thoroughly cooked, and drinking water well boiled before set out in convenient and large crockery jars to cool.

A Saturday morning inspection is carried out here the same as military camps back home. Rooms are emptied of floor mats; bedding aired, and rooms and windows scrubbed and swept clean. Clothing, food utensils and toilet articles are arranged in a neat and set pattern and, after blankets and quilts are aired and shaken out, the room is prepared for the inspection team made up of POW's who are accompanied by a Chinese doctor and a member of the administrative staff. Usually at two-week intervals, the volunteers' medical team gives the rooms and bedding a good going over with DDT.

* * *

ANY new arrivals at camp are isolated until they have been through a medical examination, bathed and issued new clothing and bedding before they are assigned to a squad. If further medical attention is required, the man is sent to the camp's hospital which is staffed with a volunteer doctor and his Chinese staff of nurses. The hospital has its own kitchen and a well-stocked pharmacy. The patients receive special diets, fortified with fresh milk and eggs. Three regular meals are served daily, and two snacks at mid-morning and in the afternoon.

All of the POW's have had regular inoculation against typhoid, tetanus and cholera. There is a daily sick call for anyone feeling under the weather or needing a checking over.

* * *

THE men have just been issued their summer dark-blue new uniforms, rubber-soled shoes and another white shirt. Hopes are high that these clothes will be their "going home duds." This same high morale took place last October when winter clothing and new bedding were handed out. Everyone was sure they'd be home for Christmas and planning to see various "Bowl" football games. Christmas passed and then it was a cinch to be with their folks for Easter. Morale dropped to a new low when Easter saw them still here; then and now they hope it is "some time this summer."

The dragging along with the armistice talks at Panmunjom is beginning to tell on some of the less hardy souls; and almost every man says a silent prayer every night for a quick settlement and release.

Whatever work the POW does is strictly for himself. The Chinese carpenters and labor gang repair and keep in shape the buildings and actual construction of large Oriental-style baths.

A British POW chorus sings during a regular camp show.

AND FIGHT FOR RIGHT.

POW's brought stones from nearby streams for enlarging the kitchens and baths, which will accommodate at one time 12-man squads.

* * *

CHURCH services for both Catholics and Protestants are held in the camps each Sunday. The only ordained POW chaplain is at Camp No. 2. Enlisted POW's conduct their own services and have been furnished lumber to build their alters and benches for indoor service; and on warm, clear days the men gather in the open and on the stone steps.

A mobile movie projection team usually manages to show Chinese-produced movies every two weeks. And almost every Saturday night a dramatic group works up enough new gags, stunts and skits to put on a good stage show. Borrowed musical instruments help out and singing quartets all manage to put on a two-hour show. After one of these shows the kitchen crew bring out doughnuts and simulated coffee.

Competitive sport, with basketball most popular, helps pass the time and keeps the morale up. All of the camps are now holding their own athletic meets with Camp No. 1 going all out with the best organized and most variety of events. Their meet was patterned after an Olympic gathering and was complete to symbolic torch-runners carrying a flaming symbol from one company to another and finally placing it on a stage.

Prize awards to winners and runners-up were provided by the volunteers. The championship basketball team was given two cartons of cigarettes and a white sport shirt for each member. The Chinese quartermaster broke out his stores for extra rations for the camp.

Although Camp No. 1's athletic meet was most ambitious, by virtue of good planning and a flat terrain to accommodate a regulation-size soccer field, like sports meets are being held at other camps. The Chinese have turned over their own basketball courts and such for use of the POW's. There are daily basketball, volleyball and soccer games.

Camps 3 and 5 are located on the water and many of the men try their hand at pole fishing. A little later, as the temperature of the water warms, the men will use much of their spare time swimming and acquiring good sun tans.

The Sports and Recreation Committee keeps an active program going for those less inclined to muscle flexing activities. Tournaments and championship play-offs in bridge, chess, checkers are available. Prizes of candy, apples and cigarettes go to the winners. Since there is a considerable amount of military script currency among the men, gambling is forbidden. However, the Chinese realize it is practically impossible to stop gambling and are lenient to caught offenders; the penalty usually being to confiscate the cards for a week or 10 days. The men are careful in their poker playing and do not openly show their script.

A network of loud speakers are spotted around the camps and recorded music is played from an improvised central studio mornings and evenings. The POW-operated broadcasting set-up pipes out many of the popular light operas of Victor Herbert, Strauss waltzes, and lively and well-received favorite Italian scores.

Two or three times a week, the men put on their own program of cowboy and hillbilly music and jokes. The Chinese loan violins, guitars and harmonicas; and the men do a good job providing their own music to accompany their songs. The camp looks forward to the Sunday evening half-hour program which is opened by the announcers with a good imitation of well-known American tobacco auctioneers' chants or take-offs from other popular state-side announcers. Even a short newscast of the camp's doings is in the program.

* * *

INTERCHANGE in language classes keeps a number of POW's occupied. The men have their own classes and are learning to speak Spanish from Puerto Ricans who in turn are learning English. A few French trade their native language for English, and some of the men who were in the Italian campaign during World War II are expanding their almost forgotten Italian from some of the men who are of Italian descent and usually are New Yorkers or from cities which have a large Italian population.

Some of the early settlers, men who have been captured more than 16 months ago, have even acquired enough Chinese words to carry on a pretty fair conversation with some of their non-English speaking captors. All of these admit trying to master a few of the written words is too complicated, and settle for a limited but small scale working knowledge of spoken words.

Another and probably the most popular self-entertainment pastime, and one that helps to keep them mentally alert, is a very good take-off on the popular state-side radio program of 'Twenty Questions.' Every company has several teams and one listening with eyes shut would almost swear they were hearing an original broadcast from America. These contests between squads in the same company often continue till "Lights Out" at 10 o'clock.

Asia and Pacific Peace Conference Scheduled

THE peace conference for Asia and the Pacific regions, to be held in Peking the last week in September, will be of great international significance. Approximately 500 delegates from Asia, Australasia and the countries bordering the Pacific in North and South America will attend the conference.

Expressing the common desire of the people in these areas, irrespective of political system, for co-existence in peace and for the free flow of trade and cultural exchange, the Peking conference will discuss:

1) Safeguarding the independence, freedom and peace of the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions.

2) Developing equal, mutually beneficial and normal international economic relations and cultural exchange.

3) Opposing the remilitarization of Japan and the use of Japan as a base for aggression.

4) Peacefully settling the Korean question on a fair and reasonable basis, and solving reasonably all questions relating to peace in Asian and Pacific regions including Viet-Nam, Malaya and other places.

The Preparatory Conference for an Asian and Pacific Regions Peace Conference concluded its meeting in Peking on June 6. Totaling 47 delegates from 20 countries, the composition of the preparatory conference members evidenced the widespread support for this move for peace, embracing men and women of many races, creeds and shades of political opinion. Delegates ranged from an Australian senator to councillors from the Japanese Diet, from a Ceylonese minister to an ex-president of the Mexican Supreme Court, from US peace movement leaders to well-known Indonesian businessmen.

At the conclusion of the preparatory conference, the 47 delegates issued the following declaration:

WE, the 47 delegates from 20 countries of Asia, Australia, South America and North America, meeting in Peking from June 3 to 6, 1952, in the Preparatory Conference for a Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions, hereby issue an urgent call to the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions: we call on the peoples of the various countries in these areas to unite, strengthen and extend the movement for safeguarding peace.

We come from different countries and speak different languages. Although we are of different political views and religious beliefs, nevertheless we represent the common will to strive for peace of the people of the countries in the Asian and Pacific regions. We understand profoundly that the people demand peace and abhor war. They are against aggression and will never commit acts of aggression against others. They ask for commercial intercourse and oppose embargoes and blockades. They desire mutual understanding and friendly relations and do not want to be obstructed and barred from meeting each other. They need a prosperous life and abhor atom bombs, germ-bombs and chemical weapons.

Today, however, the ardent aspirations of the 1,600,000,000 people in the Asian and Pacific regions are menaced by the spectre of war and military preparations.

In Korea, the cease-fire on a just and reasonable basis so long and urgently demanded by all peace-loving peoples in order to end the terrible suffering of the Korean people and to open the road to a peaceful settlement of problems in the Far East, is being delayed while the use of ever more horrible weapons of indiscriminate slaughter threatens to spread the hostilities. Elsewhere too, as in Viet-Nam and Malaya, existing military conflicts in Asia are taking heavy toll in the lives and treasure of the people and jeopardize the peace of other lands.

In Japan, the imposition of the separate treaty and military pact in violation of existing International Agreements and of the will of the Japanese people for full independence and a peaceful life secured by a genuine Peace Treaty, is bringing new hardships to the Japanese people and threatens the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions with the resurgence of the aggressive Japanese militarism which wrought such great devastation on these peoples in World War II, while the presence of foreign troops on Japanese soil threatens to involve the Japanese people in new wars.

Throughout the Asian and Pacific regions, the sovereignty

Scene of one of the sessions of the Preparatory Conference for a Peace Conference of Asia and the Pacific Regions which met in Peking early in June.

and territorial integrity of nations are being jeopardized by aggressive pacts which burden the people with armaments and the stationing of foreign troops on their soil. These pacts deprive the people of material resources needed for their own welfare and economic development. Widesppread military preparations and the existing military conflicts as in Viet-Nam and Malaya are bringing ever greater oppression of the movements for national liberation and for the defense of national independence. These movements, by seeking to end national oppression and national enslavement, make a great contribution to creating the basis for the peaceful co-existence of nations.

In the name of military strategy, barriers are increasingly being raised to prevent the free economic and cutural exchange between nations which is so necessary for the prosperity and mutual understanding of peoples.

We believe that by acting together for peace, the peoples of the Asian and Pacific countries can change this situation. They can bring to an end all present and potential conflicts in Asia and can push back the menace of war. By turning their common will for peace into a united force for the defense of peace, they can win the conditions of peace which will assure full national independence and will bring to an end the disastrous consequences of military preparations which they now suffer. They can assure the peaceful co-existence of nations with differing political and economic systems, based on equality between nations and on the right of peoples to settle their own affairs without outside interference. They can win the application of the principles and spirit of the United Nations Charter which demands the peaceful settlement of differences between nations and the reaching of agreements between the Great Powers. They can put an end to the wasteful armaments race through international disarmament and through the banning of atomic, bacteriological, chemical and all other weapons of mass destruction. They can tear down the barriers to world trade and to free cultural exchange between all peoples.

Peace cannot be awaited. It has to be won by the peace-loving peoples in unity.

Joined with the peace-loving peoples in all other regions of the earth who share the same aspirations, the peoples of the Asian and Pacific regions can win the victory of peace over war.

To help achieve this great goal, we call on all peace-loving individuals and social organizations in the various countries in the Asian and Pacific regions, irrespective of political views, religious beliefs, nationalities or professions, to unite on an ever wider basis under the guidance of the preparatory committees which have already been formed or are going to be formed in their respective countries, to hold discussion on the aforementioned problems and to elect their representatives to the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific regions which will be held in Peking within a short time, in order to work out an effective program for consolidating peace and security in these regions.

We further call upon all peace-loving peoples and organization in other parts of the world to give us their enthusiastic support and valuable opinions.

The peoples of the various countries in the Asian and Pacific regions have already demonstrated the great strength of their unity in enthusiastically responding to the call to sponsor and prepare for a Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific regions. They are already conscious of their strength which is still growing and expanding. They are therefore fully confident of the victory of the movement to safeguard peace.

If peace can be ensured in the Asian and Pacific regions, it will contribute immensely to world peace.

Let us unite still more closely and on an ever broader basis! Let us act determinedly in unison and still more firmly shoulder the lofty task of safeguarding the peace!

Human reason and international justice will undoubtedly triumph over the brute force of aggression and war!

Peace Conference

A POEM BY REWI ALLEY

REWI ALLEY was the leader of the New Zealand delegation to the preparatory meeting of the Peace Conference of the Asian and Pacific Regions which is scheduled to meet in Peking next month. Mr. Alley has spent many years in China and was one of the founders of the Industrial Cooperatives Training School at Sandan, Kansu, in China's northwestern hinterland.—Editor.

Conference in what was once a place for the rich
and idle; outside the sound
of hammers building, of people doing;
inside under the great white dove of peace
where once glasses clinked as American
diplomats and generals met Kuomintang
stooges, where Japanese spurs and sabres
rattled, concession hunters lolled,

Here today, from the ordinary people of twenty countries
sit delegates thinking. Who is with us?
Who on the side of the thousand six hundred
million? Who will read this declaration
we now prepare?

Surely, when men lay down their tools, for mid-day meal
on the docks, in steel works, on farms
they will wipe away the sweat, pick up
this statement, read it with hope.

Certainly, mothers with families, students in universities
business men, they too will read,
for them also it has been written
for all men who would unite, to have
just this one thing, peace; now the meeting
opens. India, in the chair.

India personified, magnetic, a dark piercing eye;
flags of the delegations rustle

spread their color, as hands clap,
brown hands, white hands, hands
with callouses, thin hands of intellectuals.
"Our stand—the stand of our peace
movement—has been clear and unequivocal."
"Our government budget devotes half its
expenditure to the armed forces."
"The price of food has risen, many people
have to supplement their diet with leaves."

New Zealand sits between Pakistan and Mongolia
round the circle of flags. One glances:
flag of the Philippines, then the stars
and stripes, beside the hammer and sickle;
then Viet-Nam, a golden star on
a scarlet ground.

From behind each flag, one by one, they rise to talk of peace
not the peace of hopeless longing,
today it is peace with strength
determination; with the steel
of accomplishment in struggle; anger rises
as we hear of germ warfare in Korea
attacks on China; of Gurkhas being
recruited on Indian soil
to kill Malayans.

An Australian, tall, cool, assured, rises to say
we are an Asian country; there are certain
facts that cannot be twisted; among them
are geographical facts.

A Burmese in colored turban and sarong, tells of his people
bombed by the Japanese, bombed by the British
smoking ruins and corpses left; bandit troops
thrown out from China, bought up as tools
for today's America; peace as the essential,
peace to build for their own.

Then pushing back his chair with determined hand, an American,
grey with years, anxious for his people

for women worried about the effects
of stimulated hysteria on the minds of kids
forced to go through bomb drills in schools
fed with degrading, brutalizing stories
in comic books; giving way to a young
fellow-countryman, who demands above all, the truth;
and asks for unity of the peace minded, which
will make war impossible.

Bak Chong Ai, a name to conjure with in Asia today,
in her Korean native linen, face set,
determined, calm, decisive, her voice
carrying a note of something different
of men standing against great odds, of
selfless living; of heroic youth dying
recklessly for all men. "Nor can overall
peace be won, merely through the isolated
struggle of a single people; to eliminate
imperialist aggression, to consolidate peace
we must unite."

Calm, debonair, a delegate New York's UNO does not yet accept,
rises to tell of Mongolia's new
peaceful industrialization. He says,
"Warmongers try to explain away dirty acts
with gentle, beautiful words. We are aware
of our responsibility in the struggle
of peace."

Indonesia, a frail, tiny spirited woman, talks
of peace and the organization for peace
of how there are powers that would not
permit the talking of peace, meeting for peace.

All hear of how in the Philippines the common man
looks with fear at twenty-three
American bases built for aggression,
looks and wonders how many more corpses
must be given in exchange for lipstick,
coca cola, pornographic movies.

A sturdy lass from Malaya talks of terror in quiet,
measured words; of ten thousand
British air raids; destruction
of agricultural production; barren farms,

lower living standards; mass arrests;
deportations, beatings, tortures; the loss
of freedom to work; taxed for the war
that tries to destroy them; all this
because they have tin and rubber
others want, but want too cheaply.

From Japan, a woman too, a sturdy able bit of the rising sun.
"Every human being has the right to work
for peace; we are conscious of where
the old militarists have led us; our
living standards are falling; people
should read our children's letters on
atom bombing; yet atomic energy is after all
weaker than the minds of the human race."
Total failure of the war method; we must
sincerely work for peace.

Again a woman, this time a pioneer Canadian, who talks
of grain elevators, bursting with unsold wheat
while elsewhere people starve for want of it;
Canadians are deceived by the press; if we work
and fight for it, then
peace is in our hands.

Mexicans and a painter from Chile, talk of American
economic control, warped development
of industry; of monopolies, of real freedom
and the mural that has come from Mexico
speaks louder than any words, as it hangs
in our place of meeting, telling of workers
saluting Mao Tse-tung, while in the background
stand gallows and firing squads
of a decaying society.

Viet-Nam takes the floor; young and handsome
"the French aggressors compelled three hundred
Viet-Nam women to line up on a bank, then
ordered them to throw their babies
into the water; then follow the soldiers
back to their barracks, where
they were abused." The peoples
of Asian and Pacific regions are facing
the threat of a new war; aggressive forces
must be withdrawn.

Li Te-chuan of China, a minister of state, matronly, placid, confident
"Our people are carrying on unwaveringly
their struggle for a peaceful settlement
of the Korea question, for defense of
peace in the Far East, and in the world."
Calmly, objectively she talks of the illegal
Japanese peace treaty; of bandits on Taiwan,
of the massacre of prisoners of war. "There
is not a single individual of goodwill
who does not abhor from the bottom of his heart
a policy to undermine peace
and instigate war."

Then a Soviet writer tells of what peace can do for men,
how in his land they are today
creating seas in dry regions
orchards in deserts
changing marshes into pastures; of what
greedy, lustful war does, making men into beasts;
how the Soviet people are anxious to have the time
come, when the material now put into armaments
will go to build new cities; of the common aim
for peace,
built on understanding
mutual respect
                    swift applause
breaks from the assembled,
faces light, and hearts lighten, as the message
that will go out among men and women
is read; this message, the first of its kind
in history; fruit of a desire, a call to unite
signed by hands that reach out
eagerly for it; signed and sent
                    from great Peking.

Peking, June 10, 1952.

WOMEN FIGHT FEUDAL TIES

GLADYS TAYLOR YANG

ONE of my earliest memories of Peking, where I was born of missionary parents, is of our old, widowed amah, hobbling through the courtyard on bound feet. Because she was a woman, and had the added misfortune of being a widow, she had learned to expect nothing of life; thus she patiently put up with our whims and tantrums, thankful that she could support herself and her children, whom she scarcely ever saw, by such uncongenial work. Considering the hard lot of most Chinese women under the old feudal marriage system, she was fortunate.

The feudal marriage system, by treating women as subhuman chattels, not only worked great hardships on them, but was bad for the men too. A former colleague of mine, who came from a peasant family, told me that when he was 15, the family arranged a marriage for his elder brother. The brother ran away before the marriage, and in spite of his protest, the bride was then made over to him by default.

He was forced to go through the ceremony, and, taking his first sullen look at his unwanted bride, he was shocked to find her so much older than he was, and so big. After they were locked into the bridal chamber, he refused to speak to her, spent the night curled up on a chest, and escaped through the window before dawn. He looked back on his wedding as a joke, but it had been no joke for the bride, who was forced to live in his parents' home as a despised, husbandless daughter-in-law.

Before liberation, only a very small percentage of marriages were of the relatively free bourgeois type, and these occurred chiefly in the cities. In Nanking, where I live now, more than 70 percent of the marriages before liberation had been arranged, while in the surrounding countryside all had been arranged. A recent investigation showed that in one street, a third of the family had concubines. In Ma Tao Street there is a "Chastity Hall" for widows, where before liberation 500 widows lived in the worst workhouse conditions. The whole brunt of the feudal marriage system fell upon the women. Arranged marriages were often carried out by force, girls were sold as slaves, were forced to become concubines or prostitutes; widows were compelled to remain chaste; and in general women and children were treated cruelly.

When Nanking was liberated in 1949, women were given the opportunity to struggle against the old feudal oppression under which they had suffered; and the promulgation of the new marriage law on May 1, 1950, gave them the legal basis for the free choice of partners, equal rights with men, and protected the interests of women and children.

But a centuries-old system of oppression could not be eliminated overnight. Tradition was strong, and many women did not dare to have a show-down with husbands and in-laws. Lacking working skills and experience, they feared they would not be able to make a living if they left their in-laws, and some, although in decreasing numbers, were driven to death or suicide because of unhappy marriages.

The old feudal contempt for women lingered even in the minds of some government workers. Hence the People's Court organized study courses for government workers, to enable them to correct their wrong ideas about marriage, and to analyze incorrect rulings that had been made in marriage cases.

Analysis and discussion of the new marriage law were car-

After work literacy class for women workers in Shanghai's Wing On No. 2 Cotton Mill.

ried to the masses of the people. The universities, Women's Federation and other groups held discussion meetings on the law, the newspapers carried articles on it, broadcasts were made, and blackboard newspapers educated the people in the lanes. All this resulted in keen and widespread discussion of the law, which the people began to understand and accept as a tool for improving their lives.

Women began to fight for their rights, a necessary struggle because the great mass of inert tradition could not be swept away by fiat; and now the unreasonable feudal marriage system has been shattered. Peasant women are especially anxious to throw off the yoke of feudal marriage, and, as their political consciousness has been raised through participation in land reform, they are resolutely fighting the old system. Just as they used the agrarian law as a weapon against the landlord class, they are now using the marriage law as a weapon in the struggle for freedom and equality in marriage.

More than 1,700 marriages were registered in the Nanking courts last year, with the proportion of marriages of choice greater than for the preceding year. Young people are acquiring a new attitude to love and marriage; university students and workers no longer think primarily of property or social status; the criteria for selecting a marriage partner are coming to be labor, study and progressive thought.

One case I know of illustrates the difficulties and triumphs of the new way in marriage. Kao Hsiu-chuan, a girl of 19, fell in love with a neighbor's son, Fu Pao-hsien, who worked in a repair shop. She admired his skill, unselfishness and hard work. But her father opposed the marriage because the Fu family was poor, with one son a postman and two others in the army. He wanted his daughter to marry a rich man and live in comfort.

Nevertheless, the two continued to meet, and neighbors' tongues wagged. A blind fortune-teller in their street accused them of spoiling the tone of the neighborhood. At length the father became so provoked that he ordered Hsiu-chuan to stop seeing Pao-hsien.

"According to the new marriage law," she replied, "we can decide our own marriage." This added fuel to the fire. Mr. Kao gave her a beating; she stuck to her guns; whereupon he locked her up for three days without food, swearing that sooner than let her marry into such a low-class family he would sell her as a prostitute.

Hsiu-chuan escaped and took refuge with Pao-hsien's aunt, lodging a complaint against her father at the district People's Court. At the same time, Mr. Kao charged the Fu family with the abduction of his daughter. After investigation, the court supported Hsiu-chuan and sentenced Mr. Kao to six months hard labor (suspended for two years) for violation of the marriage law.

The two young people were married last December. Their experience convinced them that the government is working for the people, and they have shown even greater keenness in work and study. The couple typifies the new type of family founded upon mutual love and respect.

An increasing number of women have asked for divorces to free themselves from the unhappy marriages into which they had been forced. Before the marriage law, the court had an average of 92 divorce cases a month; since then, the average has been 176. Nowdays, divorce means not opprobrium but emancipation for a woman.

Hsieh Hsiu-lan, for example, was forced into marriage before liberation, and was treated very cruelly. She fell ill and became as thin as a ghost; her in-laws said she had TB and treat-

Student, soldier and worker—all fields are open to women in new China.

ment was useless. After passage of the marriage law, she obtained a divorce and went to work as hygiene officer of her district. Later she remarried, this time of her own free will, and a man of her own choice.

The Women's Federation helped Ting Yun-yi to win release from a cruel husband, and she became an active worker in the federation. She was elected a women's representative, and last year she expressed her patriotism by donating to the arms fund 10 ounces of gold, her savings of a lifetime.

Both the Women's Federation and the many residents' groups largely composed of housewives, have actively joined in the struggle to end the suppression of women. They have talked many backward parents around to permit their children to marry as they chose; and they have lectured many domineering or cruel husbands to mend their ways. As a result, numbers of men have inserted resolutions into their patriotic compacts to treat their wives and children more kindly.

Cruelty to women is severely punished by law; two men who killed their wives last year were executed, whereas in pre-liberation Nanking they would probably have got off scot-free. Because the women's political consciousness is rising, and because they know they have the law behind them, more and more have the courage to fight for their rights. Cruelty cases, for example, in 1950 averaged 63 a month; last year the average was 39 a month, and there has been a further decrease this year.

The struggle is still a hard one, but there can be no doubt of the outcome. Since the new marriage law was promulgated, heavy blows have been dealt the feudal marriage system; the assault against it is a social revolution of the first magnitude. New democratic marriages, sound family relationships and the safeguarding of the interests of women and children are contributing a great part of the dynamic energy necessary to the building of new China.

There is another aspect of the emancipation of women: equality for women means responsibility for women. When we discussed the marriage law last year in Nanking University, some professors said that there had been two types of women in old China. Some women were "flower vases," who belonged to the privileged class, and some were "mud," who belonged to the working class. They felt that many of their own wives still regarded themselves as flower vases, and hoped they would change their attitude.

Many formerly parasitic women of middle-class origin are doing so. Some now hold full-time jobs, others teach literacy classes or singing groups. The most conscientious take an active part in the work of residents groups, organizing house-to-house spring cleaning, vaccination campaigns, and other work. The achievements of China's new women aviators, tractor drivers and labor heroines are a challenge and inspiration to these women, who are learning to work for the people instead of entirely for their own selfish interests.

Women of all walks of life are changing. My present servant, for example, used to be illiterate; she spent all her spare time at the theater and lent out her extra money at high interest. This year she started attending evening classes and is learning to read and write. When she received her pay this month she told me she was going to buy a fountain pen—a trivial fact, but a straw in the wind. She and my childhood amah are only a generation apart, yet they represent two different worlds.

INDIA TODAY

— A Democratic Monthly —

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Agreement heralds expansion of

SINO-JAPANESE TRADE

Ke Wei-ming

THE Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement, signed in Peking on June 1, marked the resumption of normal trade relations between the two neighboring countries, and pointed the way toward the development of a volume of trade which might equal or surpass the pre-war level. China and Japan have long had a close economic relationship, and it is to the interest of the peoples of both countries that this should be re-established.

The agreement provides for the exchange, during the current year, of goods to the amount of £30,000,000 on a barter basis from each country. Thus the total value of the trade will be £60,000,000, or about US $168,000,000. To China, Japan will send machinery and equipment, raw materials, semi-finished goods, and other industrial products, while China will furnish Japan with coal, salt, soya beans, oils and fats.

Nan Han-chen, chairman of the Chinese Committee for Promoting International Trade, signed the agreement as representative of Chinese trading circles, while on behalf of Japanese businessmen it was signed by Tomi Kora, Japanese delegate to the recent Moscow International Economic Conference, Kei Hoashi, delegate from the Japanese Society for Promoting Sino-Japanese Trade, and Kisuke Miyagoshi, chief of the Japanese Diet Members' League for Promoting Sino-Japanese Trade.

The strength of the economic tie which formerly linked China and Japan is shown by the pre-war annual average trade of more than US $340,000,000. In 1936, one-third of Japan's total imports came from China.

However, this once-flourishing trade has now almost come to a standstill, as a consequence of the embargo placed on trade with China by the Yoshida government, at the instigation of the American occupation authorities. Cutting off of trade with China has been detrimental to Japan's economy and to the living conditions of its 84,000,000 people.

The signing of the Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement, therefore, conforms to the desires of the peoples of both countries. On the one hand, trade with China will alleviate the growing economic crisis in Japan, and on the other hand, the Chinese

Tomi Kora of Japan (left) and Nan Han-chen of China (right) signing the Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement in Peking on June 1.

people hope to see Japan develop a peace economy and develop its trade relations with China.

A crisis is developing in Japan because in recent years the US has forced its economy along the road of rearmament. This year's military budget is taking one-fifth of the national income, and will exceed by a considerable amount last year's 4,500,000,000 yen spent for war preparations. As the war budget grows, production for peace declines. Businesses have gone bankrupt; and ironically, while textile mills close because of "over-production," the per capita consumption of yarn is only one-third the pre-war figure.

Economic dictation by the US, which has forced Japan to sever economic relations with China and other Asian countries, has caused Japan to lose important sources of raw materials and her foreign markets to contract.

For example, Japan is compelled to buy coal from dollar areas at US$30 a ton, whereas she could obtain it from neighboring China at US$20. Japan pays up to US$27 a ton for iron ore, but she could get it from China at US$13; and for soya beans, the prices are US$165 and US$100 per ton respectively.

As for Japan's foreign markets, her total volume of foreign trade in 1950 was only two-thirds the 1934-36 average volume.

The ill effects on Japan's economy arising from US dictation are obvious. The country's peace-time economy has been plunged into depression. While inflated raw material costs have boosted prices, unmarketable goods have filled the warehouses. As unemployment and semi-employment increases, the living conditions of Japanese workers have deteriorated alarmingly, which, adversely affecting the domestic market, has worsened the crisis.

Japan's way out is equally obvious. First and most important, normal trade relations between Japan and China and other major regions in Asia must be restored; a beginning has now been made with the signing of the trade agreement between Japan and China.

For Japan, or any other nation, there are excellent prospects for mutually beneficial trade with this country. Our international trade in 1951 was twice the value of trade in 1950, and far exceeded the pre-war level. With each advance China makes in production under the New Democratic system, she will be able to offer even more agricultural, mineral, animal and industrial products for export. At the same time, China will need to import still more industrial machinery, equipment, raw materials and other industrial products to support her economic reconstruction and to meet the growing demands of her domestic market.

In addition to economic considerations, the signing of the trade agreement testifies to the Chinese people's spirit of internationalism and their genuine friendship for the Japanese people.

But it would be false to assume that the Chinese people have forgotten the wrongs done them by the Japanese militarists and

Japan-China Friendship Association meeting in Japan.

other foreign imperialists. They well remember the annexation by Japan of Taiwan and the Penghu Islands (Pescadores) in 1894, the seizure of Port Arthur and Dairen in 1904, the demand for special privileges in Shantung province during World War I, the infamous 21 Demands in 1915, the Shanghai massacre in 1925, the occupation of the Northeast in 1931, the ravaging of Woosung and Shanghai in 1932, the instigation of a separatist movement in North China in 1935, and the all-out invasion which began on July 7, 1937.

During the eight years of their heroic resistance against the Japanese invaders, more than 10,000,000 Chinese people lost their lives, and the cost in war expenditures and destroyed properties, public and private, totalled $50,000,000,000.

Nevertheless, the people of China realize clearly with whom their debt of loss and suffering should be settled. They wish to bring the Japanese militarists to justice, but they bear no grudge against the Japanese people, who, they know, were made tools of aggression by their ruling class, dying in misery as cannon fodder. Both the Japanese and the Chinese people were made victims of the same evil forces—the forces of aggression.

The signing of the Sino-Japanese Trade Agreement is a big step toward the winning of the fight for peace in Asia. Artificial barriers of blockade and embargo entail economic stagnation, while free economic intercourse brings mutual prosperity and understanding between nations. Grandiose plans for world domination lead to war and destruction, but peaceful co-existence ensures international peace. Finally, while military preparations inflate war industry and boost super-profits for the large monopolies, disarmament will restore and develop consumer goods industry, thus providing an abundant life for the people.

In signing the agreement, the Chinese and Japanese people have declared to the world that they stand for peaceful cooperation, and are against the racial hatred deliberately fostered by humanity's enemies. Therefore, all peace-loving peoples of the world will give their endorsement to this agreement. For the same reason, the warmongers in the imperialist camp will be greatly disturbed by it, and will resort to every foul means to sabotage it; but human reason and international justice will undoubtedly triumph over the brute force of aggression and war.

The Chinese and Japanese people are determined to unite more closely in wiping out any obstacle that stands in their way to common prosperity and a peaceful life; and they are confident that they will ultimately win the battle.

ECONOMY REACHING PRE-WAR LEVEL

PRODUCTION GOES UP

—SHIH CHIA-WEI

DURING the relatively short period since liberation, new China's economy has been rapidly brought back to a level approaching that of the best pre-war years. This has been made possible by the people's government's measures to restore communications, stabilize the currency, and carry out land reform.

Water conservancy and afforestation projects are under way, greatly assisting the recovery of agriculture. State industry and trading organizations have assured the interflow of necessities at reasonable prices, and government aid has been a factor in the recovery of private business.

By the end of last year, the national economy had developed to the stage where, within this year, it was foreseen that the remaining basic tasks preparatory to carrying out large-scale industrialization could be accomplished. The planned completion of these fundamental tasks will pave the way for new China's first five year plan.

The successful achievement of this year's task of providing a sound economic basis for the further development of national construction is closely linked with the task of aiding Korea and resisting American aggression. National construction must be defended by aiding Korea, and at the same time the economy must be further developed in order effectually to resist aggression.

Although the living standards of peasants and workers have greatly improved since liberation, the present individual farm economy imposes limitations upon the speed of economic development. Last year, the average farmer of North China produced the equivalent of only 2,000 *catties* of millet, while the average industrial worker produced the equivalent of 5,200 *catties*. These figures clearly show the need for the development of larger agricultural groups, leading to collective farming, and also for the expansion of industry.

In agriculture, this year's basic task is to raise the overall level of production to a figure exceeding the best years prior to the Japanese war. If the best pre-war years are taken as 100, last year's production of foodstuffs was 92.8, cotton 133, oil seeds 65.9, and tobacco 227.7. It is planned that this year's food crop will be eight percent greater than last year's, bringing it to the best pre-war level. The cotton crop will exceed last year's by 20 percent, or nearly 60 percent greater than the best pre-war year.

Agricultural production is being increased, not only by increasing the total crop area, but mainly by raising yields per unit area. As foodstuffs, industrial crops and produce for export are all important factors in the national economy, the area devoted to one crop cannot be expanded at the expense of another crop area.

The feasibility of greatly raising yields per unit area has been demonstrated by the mutual aid teams and state farms. For example, last year Chen Yung-kang's south Kiangsu mutual aid team set a record by producing more than 1,400 *catties* of rice per *mou*, while average production in East China was only 310 *catties*. It is obvious that if Chen Yung-kang's modern methods of cultivation are widely adopted, the increase in rice production this year will be many times greater than the planned 10 percent.

In response to the government's call for bigger crops, 11 state farms initiated an emulation campaign which has spread throughout China. Many state farms, agricultural production co-ops and mutual aid teams accepted their challenges for higher production and pledged themselves to increase their overall output by 20 percent. In East China, many farms planned to increase their yields to 1,300 *catties* of corn, 1,800 of wheat and about 1,400 of rice per *mou*, or from two to three times the average for individual production.

More than 80 mutual aid teams have published challenges to other teams for bigger crops. The challenges included 10,000 *catties* of sweet potatoes, 600 of cotton, and 1,477 of corn per *mou;* the Chen Kuo-tsai team of Fukien pledged the production of 1,649 *catties* of rice per *mou*. Individual peasants also are accepting these challenges, an important factor in the widespread adoption of better methods of cultivation and raising of yields.

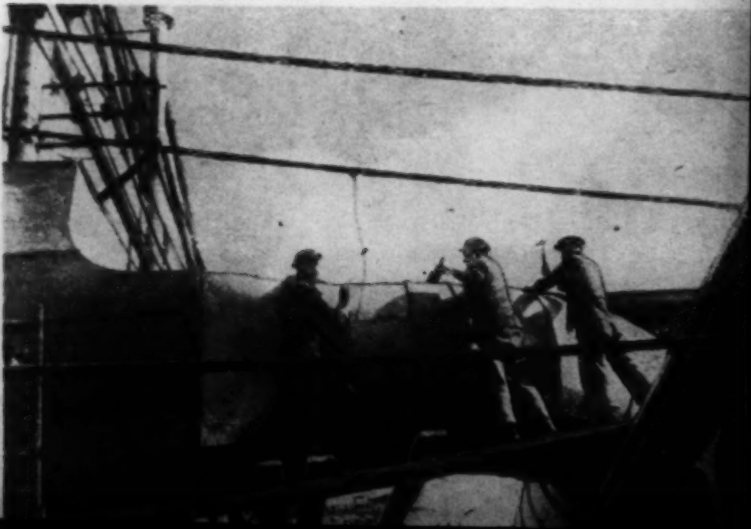
Under the leadership of state farms, the mutual aid teams and individual farmers are encouraged to exchange experience, strengthen leadership of the more skilled farmers, and adopt modern, scientific methods of cultivation, getting rid of old-fashioned ways. The success of state farms in employing more advanced techniques and in raising their yields far above the average, has taught individual farmers the advantages of larger agricultural units. The widespread increase of mutual aid teams and agricultural production co-ops is paving the way toward nationwide adoption of the collective farm system.

Important factors in increasing agricultural production are water conservancy, irrigation and afforestation projects, on which the government has expended huge sums. During the past two years, water conservancy projects have involved the moving of nearly 1,000,000,000 cubic meters of earth, enough to build a wall a meter high and a meter wide, encircling the equator 24 times. Of the many conservancy projects, the Huai River Project is the largest, benefiting 55,000,000 people living in an area of 210,000 square kilometers.

Afforestation is also being carried out on a large scale, including the coastal forest belts in Shantung and North Kiangsu and the vast belt in the Northeast. Individual peasants have planted millions of trees. In Hopei, nearly 1,000,000 *mou* have been set aside for the growing of trees.

With these various measures, it is expected that this

Better working conditions provide one answer to why production in China's factories is soaring. Photo shows installation of air-conditioning equipment in Shanghai's State No. 5 Cotton Mill, a development never even suggested in the days when the Kuomintang ran this plant.



year's agricultural production will exceed the target. Besides the increase in the production of necessary foodstuffs, industrial raw material production will also be greater, thus fulfilling the agricultural part of the national economic task. Also, with greater production, the farmers' purchasing power will be raised, which will stimulate industrial production.

* * *

FOR industry, the plan is to raise overall production this year by 20 percent, with heavy industry, especially the machine industry, in the lead. In order to carry out the plan successfully, a number of important steps are being taken, including the increasing of capacity of present equipment, the economization of materials, the lowering of costs of production, the acceleration of capital accumulation and turnover, the reduction of waste and the raising of labor productivity.

Last year's production indices for some industries, as compared with the highest pre-war levels, were as follows: steel, 333; steel products, 120; cement, 107; glass, 138; caustic soda, 244; yarn, 106; paper, 155; tungsten, 80; pig iron, 64; coal, 69; and tin, 46. The indices for iron, tin and

Production of leather goods has risen greatly since the development of an improved method of skinning pigs by workers in Shanghai's Municipal Slaughter-House. Pigskin is now becoming available in ever-increasing quantities.

coal would be greater if several pre-war years' production were averaged to provide a base, rather than taking the peak year (1942), during which equipment and workers were fiercely exploited by the Japanese for their war machine.

The adoption of advanced working methods and the reduction of waste, with consequent higher productivity, are already in full swing in the light industries, especially the cotton and textile mills. The Ho Chien-hsiu method of reducing waste, introduced by a 17-year old girl worker, has been widely adopted, and workers of other mills have also introduced new methods. The workers of State Cotton Mill No. 6, for instance, have found a way to permit the individual worker to tend more looms than before. Most of the state cotton mills have overfulfilled their targets for the first quarter of this year, one mill by 18 percent.

As a result of government measures to put the nation on a sound financial basis, and to control the distribution and prices of essential commodities through state trading organizations, prices have been stabilized for more than two years. This has been an essential factor in economic recovery and development. Recently, as one of the results of the "San Fan" movement against corruption, waste and bureaucracy in the government, and the "Wu Fan" movement against illegal practices of businessmen, state retail stores announced an average price reduction of 11 percent for 10,000 items.

While government trading organizations have succeeded in regulating prices and markets, they have also greatly assisted private industry by purchasing its products and assuring supplies of raw materials. In Shanghai, for example, the state department stores have purchased quantities of manufactured products from more than 3,000 privately-owned factories, which have thus been enabled to continue in production.

Under the leadership of the people's government, the workers and peasants are taking part in emulation campaigns and energetically improving their production techniques, for they know that as the national economy prospers their own standards of living improve. The successes already attained in this year's goals for higher production indicate that the targets will be generally exceeded, thus preparing the way for an even faster economic development next year.

A Survey of

SHANGHAI'S CHURCHES

Yang Li-hsin

One of the propaganda lines which the detractors of new China work most industriously is "religious freedom." During the past three years they have ground out a steady stream of material which is as fanciful and, apparently, as endless as their imaginations. According to their "accounts," churches are being turned into stables, cemetaries are being leveled to make way for military fortifications, religious believers don't dare worship openly, and so on and so on. The following article is the result of a survey of Protestant churches in Shanghai by a Review staff member.—Editor.

NOT only has the number of churches in Shanghai not decreased since liberation, but a new Chin Li Hui (Baptist) Church was recently built on one of the city's main thoroughfares. There are at present about 10 different Protestant denominations in Shanghai, represented by 139 churches (this figure does not include their various branch churches). They are distributed as follows: Chung Hua Chi Tu Chiao Hui (Church of Christ in China) 14; Chin Li Hui (Baptist Church) 15; Chung Hua Sheng Kung Hui (Anglican Church) 12; Wei Li Kung Hui (Methodist Church) 6; Chui Shih Chun (Salvation Army) 3; Chi Tu Fu Ling An Shi Jih Hui (Seventh Day Adventist Church) 5; Ling Kung Tuan (Spiritual Work Fellowship) 36; Hsin Nyi Hui (Lutheran Church) 1; Tzu Li Hui (Chinese Independent Church) 23; and 24 independent churches.

Shortly after liberation, all the churches saw a general decrease in attendance. The reason for such a drop is twofold. First, just after liberation some church goers misunderstood the government's policy toward Christianity and felt it politic to stay away from the churches. Second, and most important, the Chinese people are now engaged in the gigantic task of constructing a new country.

Almost every individual is extremely busy. Hundreds and thousands have left their homes on temporary or permanent assignments to work on construction projects, to participate in land reform, to work in minority areas, etc. In addition, the various mass movements absorb all time and energy for varying periods. Thus many Christians find it difficult to attend church as regularly as in the past.

However, since the Common Program guaranteeing freedom of religion was issued, there has been a steady increase in church attendance from the early post-liberation low point. For instance, in the formerly American-run Community Church, attendance, which once fell to as low as 70, now averages well over 200 every Sunday.

Other church activities, such as Sunday School, young men's meetings, fellowships and choirs, have not fallen off since liberation. Sunday School attendance runs between 30 and 40 per church. The different fellowships meet once or twice a week discussing religious affairs and other current topics.

Church weddings, however, have fallen off considerably. In new China, extravagance and waste are becoming things of the past. Since formal church weddings are more expensive, more and more couples are being married in simple civil services in the People's Court.

Baptismal services are still held in different churches in Shanghai. For instance, in the Pure Heart Church of the Church of Christ in China, 40 people were baptized in 1951.

Since severing their connections with imperialism and refusing to accept subsidies from abroad, the churches in China have been striving to become self-supporting. At present, Shanghai's various churches depend mainly on members' contributions. Though offerings are small today, they are generally sufficient. This is because the churches have cut down their unnecessary expenditures and reduced the number of workers.

For instance, the pastors' salaries have been reasonably readjusted. Before liberation, their wages were paid in US currency and never made public. The government has helped out those churches facing real financial difficulties by exempting them from land and property taxes. This has been of great help to several churches.

A new activity in the churches is study of current affairs. The pastors of different churches of the same denomination, together with the members of the churches, meet once or twice a week, studying government regulations and other current events. Recently all churches studied the San Fan documents (against corruption, waste and bureaucracy in the government).

In this way, the Christians keep abreast of the current situation in the country. During the drive for donating heavy equipment to the volunteers in Korea, Shanghai's Christians made large contributions.

A small but highly significant change in Shanghai's churches since liberation has been the displaying of national flags inside various churches. This could never have happened in the past when the churches were controlled by the foreign missionaries. However, this does not mean government interference in the church. On the contrary, it signifies that the churches built on Chinese soil belong to the Chinese people.

In addition to regular church activities, there are at present six theological schools in Shanghai, where future religious leaders are trained. The *Tien Feng* weekly, a Christian publication in the city, reaches Christians throughout most of the major cities in the country.

New China's Protestant Christians face the future with confidence. Having ended their dependence upon foreign funds and removed the imperialistic influences that accompanied them, they are now building a new indigenous church which will rest upon much firmer foundations than the old, foreign dominated church.

Guaranteed freedom of religious belief by the Common Program—the country's basic law—they obviously have nothing to fear from the government. In fact, hundreds of Christians are actively participating in various levels of government, some as representatives of Christian organizations, others as representatives of business or professional or other occupational groups, still others as civil servants in various government organizations. Some hold responsible official posts in the central and regional governments. Like the rest of their countrymen, China's Christians are active participants in the huge job of building a new country.

CORRECTIONS

The July issue of the REVIEW should be listed as Volume 123, Number 1, instead of Number 7 as was given in that issue.

In the article, "Prices Down, Production Up" on page 39 of the July issue, top right hand paragraph should read: "As a result of the "San Fan" movement, time lost on breakdowns and/or accidents in the bus company per 100 kilometers dropped from an average of 13 minutes to six minutes; charcoal consumed per kilometer was reduced from 1.2 catties to 0.8 catties."

New Teaching Method

Wiping Out Illiteracy

For centuries the vast majority of the Chinese were illiterate. In the present nation-wide drive to wipe out this age-old blight the new revolutionary rapid method of learning characters has been a spur to teaching soldiers, workers and peasants to become literate, and in this way play their part in constructing a modernized new China.

NEW China's nation-wide literacy drive has been given a big boost by the successful adoption of a rapid method of learning Chinese characters. At the time of liberation, 80 percent of the population was illiterate. Since then striking progress has been made in workers' and peasants' education. However, the difficulty of mastering the written Chinese language has made it a slow process. Hence, the recent development of the rapid method system for learning characters will expedite the big job of wiping out illiteracy in China.

The new method, initiated in the People's Liberation Army by teacher Chi Chien-hua, has been tried and found successful in the army and in worker and peasant classes. Results show that by using Chi's method a worker can cut down the time necessary for learning characters to at least a tenth or one-fifteenth the time formerly required. For example, the majority of the soldiers in the Fourth Field Army of the PLA in Central-South China learned 2,000 characters in less than two months' intensive study, using the new method. In pre-liberated China one would have had to spend a few years in order to master the 2,000 characters needed to read and write.

THE first step in the rapid method of learning characters is the memorizing of a set of 37 phonetic signs (not characters) which enables the student to obtain a close approximation of the sound of any character in the language. In order to help the student master these phonetic signs more quickly, each one is usually accompanied by a picture or a short story in the initial stage. This takes two days after which the student, by the use of a combination of two or three phonetic signs (which are divided into vowels and consonants) is able to pronounce the characters he sees.

The next step is to apply the phonetic signs to the actual characters. First the student reads the character with the phonetic signs alongside it such as: 米 (pronounced *mi* and meaning rice) and the phonetics (representing *m* and *i* making the sound *mi*). The teacher's task at this point is to explain the meaning of the character in such a way as to link it up with things common to the student's daily life. In this way a student is able to study 20 or more words in an hour.

Following this the students divide into small mutual help groups, and aid each other in repeating the words learned. After repeating each character four or five times, the phonetic signs are removed, and the students begin to read characters independently. Tried and tested in many cases, within 100 hours the students can learn to read 2,000 characters.

Actually the phonetic signs have been known in China for many years, dating back to the 1913 conference to popularize the Peking dialect as the standard pronunciation of the Chinese language. At this conference it was decided to adopt the phonetics invented for this purpose by a group of lexicographers and phonologists of whom Professor Li Ching-hsi, now head of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at National Peking University, was one of the leaders. However, under the various warlord regimes and the Kuomintang no attention was paid to mass education and this system never got beyond the realm of the primary school where it was only used to help the children learn to pronounce the written characters.

It was not until late 1948 when Chi Chien-hua began to devote his efforts to making real use of the phonetic signs that they were used as a weapon to overcome illiteracy in the army.

However, the rapid method of learning characters is more than mere reliance on the use of these important phonetic signs. Various elements are contained in the method. For example, one of the chief points in instructing students is to have classes made up of students with approximately the same understanding and the teaching of the characters must be related to the every day life of the students, revolving around vocabulary they are most familiar with.

Most Chinese words are combinations of two characters. Thus in learning, for example, the character 朝 (*chao*), the students are given the combination 朝鮮 (*chao shien*) which means Korea rather than the combination 朝代 (*chao dai*) meaning dynasty. For the average student the word Korea is something he comes across daily whereas dynasty has little or no use. In the case of workers, when learning the characters meaning temporary, 臨時 (*lin shih*), it is much easier if this is combined with the character (*gung*) meaning to work. The three together—*lin shih gung*—are the common term for temporary employment, something a worker is familiar with.

From this it can be seen that phrases are an important key to the rapid method of learning characters. The phrases learned are carefully attuned to the every day expressions and experiences of the student.

An important element in teaching workers and peasants, who have spent their lives in illiteracy, is the time given to building up the confidence of the students to enable them to master the characters. Stress is also placed on breaking

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Chi Chien-hua, inventor of the new teaching method, giving instruction on phonetic symbols.

down the psychological barrier confronting the average student, who at first does not believe he can learn so many characters in so short a time, or, for that matter, in any amount of time. The idea is to get everybody to be able to read 2,000 characters, and and at the same time write the books, magazines and newspapers in *bai hua* (the spoken language), thus getting rid of the semi-literary filips which the intellectuals have clung to so desperately.

Breaking down of the psychological barrier is done through organized effort led by the teacher. When hesitant beginners immediately bring up the point that for years they have never learned more than a handful of characters the teacher explains the new method and cites concrete examples of people like themselves who have already mastered the problem.

Through lectures on the new method which is described as the key to the door of culture once it is grasped, through showing the students that as adults they have accumulated many experiences which have equipped them with the ability to identify the characters rather than having to rely on sheer memory, through initial examples of words they use every day (such as 勞動 *lao dung* meaning labor), the doubts of beginners are overcome. As they get into the course self-confidence rises as day by day the students see themselves accomplishing the "impossible."

Still another important element in the success of Chi Chien-hua's new method is that the students want to learn, want to become literate, and know that they now have a way. Of course in the old days the average Chinese also wanted to learn to read and write but there was little opportunity. Schools were for those with money and the time needed to plod through the slow laborious method of memorizing characters, many of which were solely for the literary language. Today the people know there are schools for them to attend and moreover there is a crying need for people who are literate.

By 1951, 2,000,000 workers and 11,000,000 peasants were attending spare-time schools all over the country, in addition to 35,000,000 peasants who had joined winter study classes. Today the people are convinced of the need to become literate in order to play a more important part in the building of a new China. Then they have the countless examples in the PLA of illiterate soldiers who have successfully gone through the course.

All this, added to the fact that the method for rapidly learning characters is before them, makes for definite hope on the part of the student.

THERE is no doubt that the rapid method of learning characters has been a success. Last year it was widely used throughout the PLA. In December 1951 the Political Department of the Central Military Committee of the PLA decorated its initiator, Chi Chien-hua, and decided to adopt the method for the whole army. This year the All-China Federation of Labor and bureaus of education in many parts of the country have decided that the method will be used in winter schools and in all workers' and peasants' full and part-time schools.

Since last year results achieved in experimental groups, in addition to the PLA success in the past few years, have been amazing and give evidence of the manner in which workers and peasants all over China will be able to master the written language in a short time.

Last February the Railway Industry Union in Hangchow conducted an experiment in a special class made up of 30 transportation workers which resulted in raising the average reading vocabulary from 145 to 1,900 characters after 37 days. By the end of the course each student had passed an oral examination on four simple textbooks and 10 pamphlets. They also wrote two let-

A class of women workers from Shanghai's State No. 1 cotton mill studying Chinese under the new method.

ters and six articles each without the aid of their teachers.

In Tientsin, under the auspices of the Cotton Industry Union, an experimental class consisted of 29 members including 21 women workers. The entire course lasted 195 hours during which the average vocabulary was raised from 520 to 2,108 characters. Most of the students were able to read ordinary publications and write short articles without difficulty.

Among peasants, an experiment was made by the House of Culture on the outskirts of Peking. Beginning in January the class was attended by 26 peasants, some of whom were completely illiterate. After 165 hours the average number of characters learned was 1,638, half of the students reaching 2,000. They attended classes for two hours a day and memorized the phonetic signs in only nine hours.

The adoption of Chi Chienhua's rapid method of learning characters, combining a new system of study and organization, is perhaps the greatest single step taken toward wiping out illiteracy among the people and quickly raising their cultural and technical knowledge to a level in line with the needs of China's constantly expanding national construction.

MOVIES

NEW China's movie industry has made great headway during the past three years, reflecting the rising living standard of the people in the country.

At present, there are 750 theaters and 1,500 mobile projection teams in China. The significance of these figures is readily apparent when compared with pre-liberation statistics. In the Kuomintang days there were only 500 theaters and projection teams in all of China.

In the past, denied entry to the first-run theaters, the great majority of the people rarely if ever had a chance to see a movie. In 1951, however, of the 360,000,000 people who bought movie tickets, 220,000,000 were urban residents and 140,000,000 were from factories, villages and army units.

Overall movie attendance has also steadily increased since liberation. In 1951, attendance doubled the previous year's, with progressive films accounting for 90 percent of box office receipts. For instance, early this year, close to 2,059,000 people in Shanghai alone saw the documentary picture "Resist US Aggression and Aid Korea." This figure,

GAIN IN POPULARITY

however, is for regular theaters only and does not include the attendance at showings given by projection teams in the factories and suburban areas.

Ticket prices in all theaters in Shanghai, including the first-run shows, have been reduced more than 100 percent and are well within the budget of most residents in the city.

Shanghai's main theaters were in the central district and the more exclusive residential areas, and none were provided for the workers. Recently, a new theater has been completed in the working class area of Zikawei and another is being built in the western working class district.

The workers in the theaters have helped to popularize the films. They have set up reading rooms with the latest magazines and wall newspapers in the theaters and one movie house in Shanghai even has a creche.

Right after the liberation of Shanghai, movie attendance averaged about 2,000,000 a month. The number increased to 2,400,000 and 3,000,000 a month respectively in 1950 and 1951. By February of this year, Shanghai's movie attendance was averaging around 3,700,000 a month. By mid-year the figure was still rising.

Shanghai's first new theater in many years — The Hengshan, built for workers in the Zikawei district.

Will Surpass Pre-War Level

Fishing Industry Prospers

Juin Heng

CHINA'S fishing industry, which suffered a loss of half its fishing craft during the war against Japan, and declined even further in the years following VJ-Day is expected this year to reach and perhaps surpass the pre-war catch.

This remarkable achievement is the result of careful planning by the people's government, organization of the fishermen, large loans extended to them, and expansion of the market. At the same time, prices have been maintained and the ancient bane of fishermen, feudal protection rackets masquerading as "sales agencies," have been done away with.

In 1934, the East China fishing fleet numbered nearly 70,000 sea-going junks, 288 steam vessels and tens of thousands of small fresh water fishing craft. The catch, from the 270,000 square mile fishing grounds of the East China Sea, Yellow Sea and Pohai Bay, and the barely exploited 448,000 square mile South China Sea, averaged about 700,000 tons.

In 1949, there were only some 30,000 junks and 125 steam vessels, and the catch was less than 450,000 tons. The fishermen were poverty-stricken, unable to repair their boats or nets, and at the mercy of the shoreside gangs of "brokers" who robbed them of most of the value of their catch.

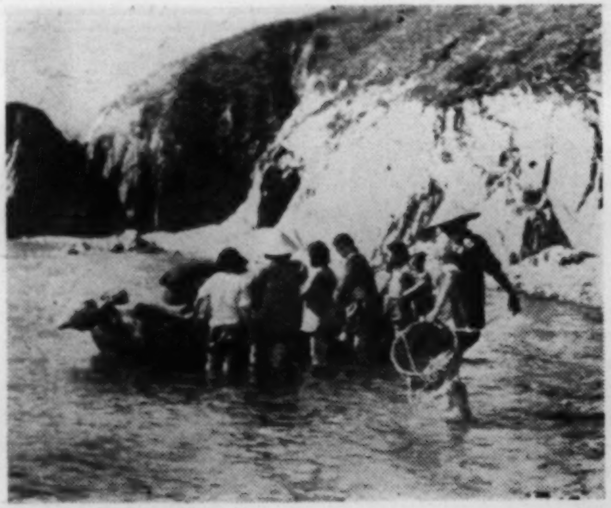
UNRRA made a gesture at assisting the revival of China's fishing industry by sending a fleet of 130 trawlers, which operated under the "Fisheries Rehabilitation Administration." The American captains were paid US$900 a month plus bonuses, and after four years the fleet had brought in only 10,000 tons of fish—valued at about one-ninth of FRA expenses. Only a few of the trawlers were in condition to put out to sea, and the combination of UNRRA inefficiency and the Shanghai fish monopoly, which objected to

FRA's threat to its control of the market, resulted in FRA contributing less than 10 percent of the fish sold in Shanghai.

After liberation, the KMT "Marine Products Companies" were reorganized, and the people's government made large investments in shipbuilding, processing plants, ice and cold storage plants, dockyards, net factories, cod liver oil refineries and canneries. Fishermen's cooperatives have been set up, and nearly 800,000 fishermen have organized themselves into mutual-aid groups. Government loans to fishermen for the repair of boats, purchase of nets and other gear, have exceeded a total of ¥200,000,000,000.

The government has further assisted the recovery of the industry by making salt available to fishermen at a one-third reduction in price, by extending the time for making tax payments, and by reduction of freight rates. One of the biggest benefits to fishermen has been the regulated price for fish.

In the old days, when abundant catches were brought to city markets, prices offered fell off, owing to the control of the market by unprincipled "brokers." The average fisherman kept less than a third of the value of his year's catch for himself. Now, however, exorbitant brokerage fees have been eliminated along with price manipulation. Last year,



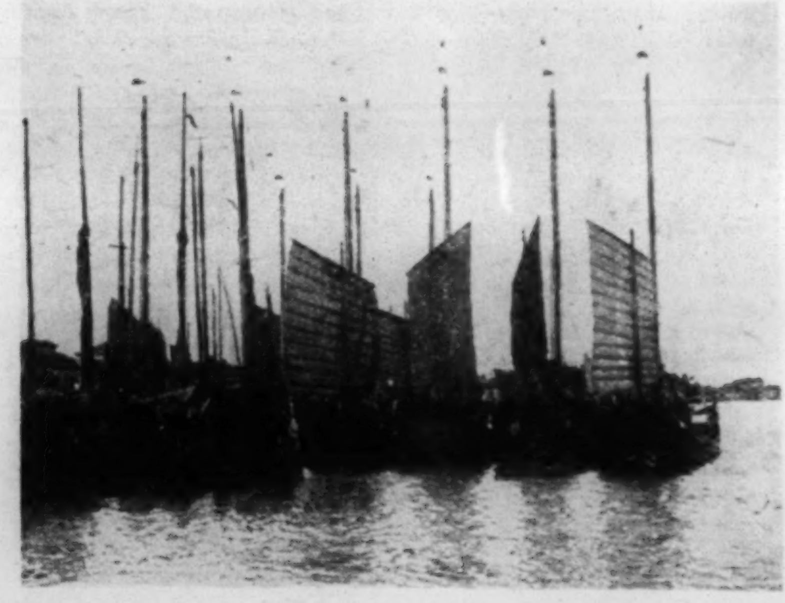
Fisherman's children help unload catch.

the quantity of fish brought to the Shanghai market was 60 percent greater than that of 1950, yet the price per pound of fish was maintained.

To eliminate the old corrupt practices of shoreside brokers and gangsters collecting various kinds of "fees" from the fishermen, in addition to charging high brokerage fees, the old gangs have been broken up. Also, the government has organized new fish markets in Shanghai, Tsingtao, Chefoo, Ningpo, Wenchow, Chusan and Wusih, where minimum prices are maintained. In the different fishing ports, more than 300 fishing cooperatives have done much to solve problems of marketing, and have supervised the carrying out of reforms in the industry.

How the government acts to regulate fish prices was shown by an incident a year ago in Shanghai, when a large quantity of yellow fish came into the market. Formerly, this would have meant an immediate tumble in price; but the state fish market, together with the cold storage merchants, purchased more than a quarter of the haul and main-

Fishing junks getting sail up.



tained the price. On the other hand, when the fishing season was over, state fish markets kept prices on an even keel by supplying dealers with cold storage fish. In this way both fishermen and customers are protected the year round.

Results of this spring's fishing expedition, which concluded early in May, have been better than anticipated. Good reports have been received from many harbors, and the Weihaiwei area stated that the catch there was the largest in 30 years. With such a good start, it is anticipated that the year's total catch will considerably exceed the 700,000-ton target.

Woosung fishermen, returning to the harbor with their catch, sold it at favorable prices, with fishermen's cooperatives buying up a large part of the haul to ensure a wide market. The fishermen said that now there is only one chance in ten of a fishing trip ending in failure, since the government insurance company protects them against marine and war risks and the navy and public security departments protect them from pirates. Furthermore, they said, government loans provided capital for financing their trips.

As many peasants become fishermen temporarily during the spring season, this year a joint operation was inaugurated to help them solve their marketing problems, so that they could return more quickly to their farms in time for spring work on the land.

For the present summer fishing season, a huge fleet of 50,000 junks, manned by 1,200,000 fishermen, is off the East China coast. The fleet, larger than last year's, has set itself the goal of fulfilling 56 percent of this year's total haul. To outfit the expedition, the government advanced loans totaling ¥45,500,000,000.

In addition to increasing the catch from salt water fishing grounds, some of which, as off the southern coast, have never been fully explored, considerable attention is being given to the wider utilization of fresh water lakes and streams. The Chekiang Fishery Corporation, for example, has set up four main and 24 branch fish hatcheries and plants to raise 4,000 tons of fresh water fish a year on 20,000 acres of rivers, ponds and canals.

The Ministry of Agriculture has estimated that more than 1,200,000 tons of fresh water fish can be produced annually, using only one-sixth of the fresh water area in East China for the purpose. Chekiang alone has an estimated 160,000 acres of fresh water ponds suitable for breeding, and other provinces, such as Hupeh, have a multitude of lakes and ponds.

One great difficulty in raising fresh water fish has been overcome. Two favored varieties of fish do not spawn or hatch under artificial conditions, which makes it necessary to transport fry from the Yangtze and Pearl rivers. Mortality used to be very high, but has now been reduced to 0.7 percent with long distance air transport being used for the first time in China's history.

When Chefoo fishermen unload a big catch it draws an admiring crowd.

CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPE

SIDNEY SHAPIRO

IN the past, the average Chinese had only the vaguest notions about the culture of the nations now constituting the people's democracies of Europe, nor could the citizens of those countries be said to have had any real understanding of culture in China. This was due to a number of factors. The ruling class of the feudal Ming and Ching dynasties scorned what they considered the pretensions of culture of the "barbarians," and did their best to isolate China from the influences of the Western world. After the doors of international trade had been forced open by imperialist gun-boats, when the beginnings of Chinese capitalism were followed by the advent of the Kuomintang government, there arose within the ruling class an uncritical worship of all Western culture imposed on China by its foreign exploiters, to the virtual exclusion of all other cultures.

Discussing this latter period, Kuo Mo-jo, noted Chinese scholar, says: "In the recent 30 to 40 years, the imperialists, primarily the American imperialists, attempted deliberately to imbue the Chinese people with their corrosive culture. The products of the imperialists who had profaned the dignity of human culture comprise extremely egoistic commercialism; a frenzied, downcast, abnormal psychology caused by desperation; irrational mysticism; murder; lasciviousness; a national superiority mania; a destruction of the concepts of virtue and justice and a trampling on the human sense of beauty. All these filthy things could not but be spewn out and rejected by us."

While new China emphatically rejects the degraded elements of Western culture, its progressive features are welcomed with enthusiasm. Chairman Mao Tse-tung sets forth Chinese policy in no uncertain terms: "China must absorb abundantly from foreign progressive culture the nourishing material for her own culture. This work has not been done sufficiently in the past. We must absorb all that is useful to us today."

One part of effectuating this policy has involved the establishment of cultural relations with the people's democracies of Eastern Europe. Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in October 1949, centuries of artificial barriers between the progressive cultures of China and Eastern Europe have been swept away.

Pacts on cultural cooperation have been signed between China and Hungary, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the German Democratic Republic, whereby the governments concerned pledge themselves to foster the understanding of each other's culture, and to exchange cultural material and experiences.

In Tsinghua University, near Peking, students from Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland are attending courses. Exhibitions called "Construction in Hungary," "The Rumanian People's Republic Advances toward Socialism" and "New Czechoslovakia" have been staged in Peking and other major cities. Chinese art objects and eight motion pictures were exhibited in Prague during "China Month" in June 1950, then went on tour through Rumania, Hungary and Poland. An exhibition of Chinese products was held in Bulgaria in January 1951.

Numerous delegations to and from China have done much to stimulate interest in their countries' cultures. Whether students, artists or scientists, in interviews with the press, during forums or informal discussions, they are deluged with questions about the culture of their native country. Several of these representa-

tives, like those in the Chinese Youth Delegation to the Third World Festival for Youth and Students in Berlin, in August 1951, were able to demonstrate as well as talk about some phases of their culture. The young actors, singers and dancers among them put on a show which entranced the vast audience.

Visiting musical and theatrical groups, with their direct mass appeal, have evoked enthusiastic response. Ma Sitson and the six other Chinese musicians who participated in the Spring Musical Festival at Prague in June 1951 were exceedingly well received. A Chinese acrobatic troupe scored a smashing success in Poland, after a record-breaking series of performances in the Soviet Union. It was so popular in the latter country that a film was made of it in Moscow which was shown throughout the Soviet Union and the European people's democracies.

The folk dancing, music and choral singing of the Hungarian State People's Ensemble, recently on tour in China, captured the hearts of thousands of delighted Chinese. During the Peking May Day demonstration this year, the Ensemble joined the great parade marching past the Chinese and foreign notables assembled

Left: Scene from a famous Czechoslovak puppet play and a model of a puppet theater which was one of the exhibits at the Czechoslovakian Exhibition which recently toured China.

★

Right: One of the folk dances performed by the Hungarian cultural troupe during its visit to Shanghai this past spring.

on Tien An Men and in the reviewing stands. After a few spirited dances, the choral group sang directly to Chairman Mao, on the rostrum, the popular song in his honor, "The East is Red," and they sang it in Chinese, to the cheers of 500,000 massed celebration participants.

The exchange of plays and motion pictures is enabling millions of people to comprehend easily the life and culture of their friends on the other side of the globe. "New Czechoslovakia," a documentary, and "Daily Bread," a feature film made in the German Democratic Republic, have won wide acclaim in China. At the International Film Festival in Prague in 1951, prizes were awarded to the Chinese motion pictures, "The Steeled Fighters" and the famous "White Haired Girl." The latter has also been performed as a drama on the stages of Czechoslovakia, while a Hungarian theatrical group has done a fine version of the Chinese play "Matured in Battle."

Articles dealing with the cultural matters of their brother people's democracies appear almost daily in the local newspapers and magazines, while press coverage of their cultural affairs

Scene from the famous Chinese folk opera "The White Haired Girl" being performed in Moscow by the Chinese Youth Art Ensemble which made an extensive tour of the Soviet Union.

and activities is quite full. The Peking *Kwangming Daily* publishes a fortnightly supplement entitled "Cultural Interflow" which devotes itself primarily to China's cultural relations with the Soviet Union and the people's democracies of Europe.

Magazine circulation, too, is brisk. *China Pictorial* and *People's China* have both English and Russian editions. A wide readership is enjoyed in China by such periodicals as the *Rumanian Review*, *Czechoslovak Life*, *Free Bulgaria* and the *German Democratic Republic in Construction*.

The foregoing is only the briefest outline of some examples of cultural exchange between China and the Eastern European democracies. While far from complete, it attests to the intense interest of the Chinese people and the people of the European democracies in each other's cultures. Such an interest is entirely natural, for aside from the artistic or technical merits of the respective cultures, outwardly varied and "different" as they may be, there are many features common to all of them.

Thus, as the Chinese view sympathetically the efforts of Berlin workers in the German Democratic Republic to repair a war ravaged factory in the motion picture "Daily Bread," German readers readily understand the problems of workers rehabilitating a power plant wrecked by the retreating Kuomintang, as described in the Chinese novel "Moving Force." The magnificent "Notes From the Gallows" by Jules Fucik and the Chinese film "Shangjao Concentration Camp" both tell the story of men of steel, intrepid in the face of fascist monstrousness. The more the Chinese people and the people of Eastern Europe learn of each other's experiences as expressed in their cultures, the more they are struck by the similarities, and the stronger becomes their feeling of admiring fellowship.

Their cultures however bespeak not only their past resemblances but also the identicalism of their present and future aspirations. Foremost among them are the desire to preserve world peace and the determination to develop free, prosperous, democratic societies. Firmly sharing these same aims, China and the people's democracies of Eastern Europe are pouring forth ever increasing streams of facts, creations and ideas, which, as they flow between the two regions, stimulate and enrich the cultures of both.

CHINA NOTES

Bumper Harvest for China

BUMPER wheat crops are expected this year throughout China, with an increase in output over last year in most areas. Chief wheat producing sections in North, East and Northwest China all will top last year's harvest.

Wheat prospects for North China are the best in years. Estimates for Pingyuan province, a chief wheat producing area in North China, forecast an average output of more than 720 kilograms per hectare. All in all, North China's food crops are expected to surpass the 1951 figure by 3,900,000 tons.

In East China, the nation's largest administrative area, conservative estimates set this year's wheat crop at least 10 percent over last year. By mid-June increases of from 10 to 20 percent had been reported in Chekiang and Fukien provinces.

The progress of the wheat crop in both Northwest and Central-South China by early summer indicated an increase over 1951 production figures.

Along with stepped up wheat production, reports from producing areas revealed that rich fruit and tea crops could be expected this year.

In Kwangtung, output of the province's famous laichee fruit reached a huge market all over China. Pineapples, in which south Kwangtung abounds, were unusually large this year. The pineapple and jack-fruit crop of Hainan Island was treble that of 1951. By June, the total volume of fruit shipped out of Kwangtung was estimated at 50 percent more than during the same period last year.

The yearly increase of the tea crop in Anhwei province since liberation has been attributed to the substantial aid advanced by the people's government to tea growers. In the Hweichow area, a noted tea-growing region, production last year was three and a half times greater than that of 1949, and estimates for this year's crop predict a rise of from 27 to 30 percent over last year.

NORTHEAST China has adopted a plan whereby horse-drawn machines will replace hand-operated farming tools in the next few years. The plan, calling for the introduction of 170,000 sets of horse-drawn agricultural machines between 1952 and 1957, has been adopted following successful experiments in the past two years.

The new machines will not only increase agricultural production but will provide manpower for the Northeast's rapidly expanding industry. It is estimated that 1,000,000 men will be released for industry, while 4,000,000 tons of extra grain will be harvested. This represents a 20 percent increase compared with the old methods of cultivation.

Since 1950, the government has made great efforts to show the peasants the advantages of machinery over hand work. It has been proved that yields are 20 to 30 percent more per hectare where horse-drawn machines replace hand-operated tools.

Irrigation in North China

THE recent completion of the Huangyang irrigation project in Suiyuan province in North China means that 96,000 hectares of valuable farmland can be irrigated. The main installation, situated on the west bank of the Yellow River, is a vital irrigation project in the Yellow River basin. Its completion is a major step in creating North China's largest granary, in an area noted for its abundant wheat, millet, sesame, melons, rice, soya beans and corn.

At present the project can irrigate an area more than one-third the size of Luxemburg. When all the irrigation canals and ditches in the area are restored to working order, not only will the irrigated acreage be almost doubled but 10,000 hectares of alkaline or wasteland will be turned into arable soil.

The Inner Bend area, that part of North China serviced by Huangyang's 14 sluice gates, has once again become a vast plain criss-crossed by serviceable irrigation canals and ditches. It is estimated that the area will now be able to yield 20,000 to 25,000 tons of grain above local requirements. In addition to the products it is noted for, the peasants here have achieved good results in trial planting of cotton, peanuts, sugar beet and koksaghyz (a rubber-bearing plant).

Before liberation, the Kuomintang talked about building the much-needed Huangyang sluice gates and collected about 3,000 tons of grain from the peasants, but in three years nothing but a couple of pits were dug on the "construction site." In May 1950, after repairs had been made on the area's irrigation system, the people's government launched the Huangyang project.

SHANGHAI C.O.L. DOWN

The Chinese people today are experiencing the pleasant sensation of seeing the cost of living go down. Retail prices throughout the country in June were down on almost all items. Far from being "storm warnings" of impending economic trouble, they were the result of careful planning and were made possible by increased efficiency in production and distribution and by a rapidly rising rate of factory and farm output. Figures below are for Shanghai, comparing retail prices of daily necessities in January and June of this year.

Commodities	Quantity	Prices Jan. 1952	 June 1952
		(in Yuan)	
Flour	bag	79,800	70,400
Peanut Oil	catty	5,100	5,000
Salt	„	1,300	1,250
Rice First Grade	„	1,470	1,560
Rice Second Grade	„	1,420	1,500
Kerosene	„	8,000	5,150
Cotton Cloth Dragon Head	meter	8,500	8,300
Coal Briquettes	picul	28,200	28,200
Anthracite, Yangchuen	„	36,000	28,000
Soap, Koopun Brand	each	2,200	1,900
Matches, My Dear Brand	10 boxes	2,500	2,100
Cigarettes, 20's Flying Horse	packet	2,800	2,500
Cigarettes, 20's Chunghua	„	5,000	3,500
Fine Wool	lb.	236,000	208,000
Coarse Wool	„	196,000	182,000
Men's Rubber Shoes	pair	31,500	30,900
Tooth Brush	each	6,500	6,400
Tooth Paste, Three Stars	„	3,600	2,500
Towel, 414 Brand	„	8,800	7,900
Thermos Bottle, middle size	„	12,500	13,000
Toilet Soap	„	3,000	2,300
Men's Socks	pair	7,500	6,900
Cold Cream, large size	bottle	13,000	10,500
Kwangming Milk Powder	1 lb. bottle	44,000	40,000
Firewood	picul	38,000	33,000
Charcoal	„	100,000	88,000
Pork	catty	9,000	6,000
Chicken	„	8,500	7,400
Beef	„	7,500	7,000
Eggs	each	700	400
Penicillin (East China)	200,000 units	14,000	14,000
Chloromycin (East China)	12 pills	150,000	130,000
Sulfadiazine (East China)	1,000 tablets	1,400,000	1,200,000
Sulfathiazole (East China)	1,000 „	480,000	400,000

New Life for Rail Workers

GREAT changes have taken place in the lives of China's railway workers since liberation. A typical example is Hankow, where the nation's historic railway workers' movement started with the great strike of 1922 and which was ruthlessly surpressed by the combined forces of the warlords and the British.

Approximately 20,000 square meters of housing have been built for the workers in the neighborhood of their workshops. In contrast to drab pre-liberation days, hundreds of families now live in comfortable homes. By mid-1952 a new housing project was under construction.

As a result of a general 10 percent wage increase last September, workers' purchasing power has gone up. Thus, since that time average monthly purchases of cloth and other necessities have increased. Stores have been specially set up in the Hankow area to provide rail workers with food and other commodities at lower than market prices.

For recreation, a trade union rest home has been established. Since last year hundreds of workers have spent vacations there. At the same time many effective measures for safety and health have been put into effect. The national Labor Insurance Law has meant an end to worry over childbirth, illness and old age. Increased use of safety devices has added to workers' protection and greatly cut down the accident rate.

Education is now regarded as an integral part of the daily life of the railway worker and his family. Study at sparetime schools is widespread and by next year illiteracy will be completely wiped out. Mothers and wives of workers attend newspaper reading and literacy classes while new schools for their children have been built in workers' residential areas.

NINETEEN fifty-two has seen a great upsurge on China's railway lines. In addition to the rebuilding of old routes and construction of new ones, an outstanding achievement has been the nation-wide drive to increase freight haulage and to surpass a daily mileage of 500 kilometers per locomotive.

By the beginning of May, 29 percent of the nation's freight locomotives had topped the average daily of 500 kilometers and, at the same time, 340,000,000 ton-kilometers of goods were hauled above schedule by all the freight trains in China.

The Shanghai rail sub-administration reported that in March 184 locomotives had fulfilled the 500-kilometer target. In April and May the number rose to over 200. Meanwhile, average daily runs by freight locomotives rose from 432 kilometers in March to 446 in May.

In haulage, Shanghai sub-administration locomotives pulled a total of 6,000,000 ton-kilometers in excess of the normal haul in January and February. In April, the total freight carried in excess of the scheduled target was 27,390,000 ton-kilometers, and the figure rose to 34,000,000 in May, equivalent to the saving of 52 freight trains from Shanghai to Nanking.

Workers' Children Get Schooling

SINCE liberation children of workers in Shanghai have had the opportunity of attending school in great numbers. Before liberation these children were victims of an educational system which catered to the privileged class and made little provision for public schooling.

In the past the ratio of workers' children in the local public and private schools was insignificant. In many schools there was not even one child coming from an industrial workers' family. In the past three years, however, a drastic change has taken place and at present 16 percent of all students in Shanghai are children of workers and peasants. In some schools, the percentage reaches as high as 68 percent.

Since 1951 the government has been establishing schools in factory districts to take care of workers' children. By mid-1952 the Bureau of Education had set up four public elementary schools specially for workers' children and preparations were under way to establish another 22 elementary schools to handle about 20,000 more.

Another step in providing schooling for these children has been the organizing of a large number of evening classes in factory districts. Up to July of this year nearly 100,000 workers' children were attending such classes, some of which were turned into half-day schools to meet the growing need. Moreover, 200 new evening classes or half-day schools to accommodate an additional 20,000 workers' children were scheduled to be opened in factory districts before the end of the year.

Private schools in Shanghai are being encouraged to enrol children of workers. Special classes for these children in private school are subsidized by the local government. Some private schools in factory districts have made special arrangements with the factories to allocate a certain quota of vacancies to workers' children, while some even run classes for such children on behalf of the factories.

Tsaoyang Housing Project

New Homes for Workers

N. P. Tan

Located in a quiet Shanghai suburb, the Tsaoyang Housing Project—167 two story buildings with accommodations for 1,002 families — was formally opened on June 25. Built by the municipal government, it is for workers in both state-owned and private-owned factories in Shanghai.

For months before any buildings were ready for occupancy groups of workers were invited to inspect the construction site and give their opinions and suggestions. The writer visited the project with a group of workers shortly before it was opened in June.

STREAMS of workers came along the newly-laid road and through the latticework arch leading to the project. Talking and laughing and occasionally singing a few bars from some of the current favorites among workers, everybody was in a holiday mood. The men and women sauntered through the arch to the strains of the popular song "We Workers Have Strength!"

At the gate they were picked up by guides who invited them to sit in groups while it was explained why they had been asked to take half a day off from their factories to come and see the new housing project.

"These homes are for you," our guide explained. "This first workers' housing development has benefited from suggestions by other workers and, now that the project is almost finished, we want you to look the place over and give us your opinions. Don't forget, this is only the first, so your ideas will help us."

The workers took their visit seriously and our guide was peppered with a steady stream of questions. "That building over there is the hot water shop," an indispensible service in any Chinese community. There were many of them scattered throughout the project. "That's the bath house," he continued, answering a query about a large building in the center of the project. It was already completed, with baths, showers and small pools all finished off neatly. The waiting rooms seemed more like recreation rooms, where one can enjoy a leisurely cup of tea before or after bathing.

A Chinese bath is a major affair, involving a shower and scrubbing first, followed by a good long soak in a scalding hot pool. After this the bather gets a rub-down and sits, draped in towels, drinking tea or napping until he's cooled off and ready to leave.

Over to one side, a building just going up is to be the primary school, of which there will be several for the whole project. In addition, there will

Moving Day for 1,000 Families

On June 25 the first of more than 1,000 working class families began moving into the Tsaoyang Housing Project.

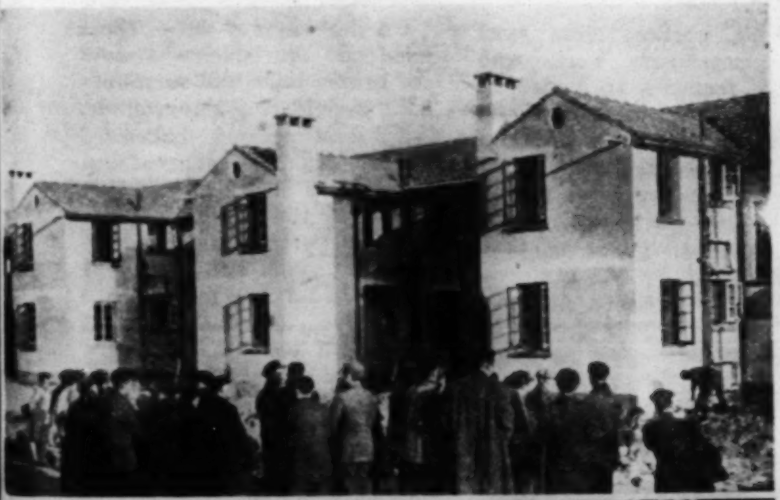
Below: Worker Hsu Shun-hua, a member of a model workers' brigade, was one of the first workers to move into the new project.

Above right: One section of Tsaoyang Housing Project.

Below right: This ancient rowboat is the old home of Chu Yung-kang, who moved into the Tsaoyang project. Now 34 and a fireman at the Ying Feng Woolen Factory in Shanghai, Chu began work 21 years ago at the age of 13.

be a middle school, a central playground and an athletic field. Space has already been set aside for a number of clinics and the hospital, which was scheduled to be ready by the time the entire project was completed.

In the houses themselves the visitors carefully scrutinized every detail. Each unit has two floors and, depending on the number of persons in each family, will accommodate three or four families. The rooms were light and airy. Within easy reach were the common kitchen and laundry facilities, each floor having its own, as well as a place to air and dry



clothing.

Nearly all the people in our group made it a point to measure the length and width of each room, walk to the kitchen and back, to the laundry and then back again to the rooms. It was easy to visualize what was running through their minds: A bed right here next to the window, a table over there in the room closest to the kitchen.

These workers from steel mills, machinery works and textile factories all looked at the windows, measuring the distance to the hot water shop and to the bath house. And the big building they passed at the entrance to the project, the cooperative store, that wasn't very far away either. Many of the visitors apparently did not have electricity in their present homes, so there was much testing of the light switches, accompanied by nods of approval as the lights flicked off and on.

They all lingered a while, going back and forth, several times, re-inspecting the rooms, the entrance, the floors, looking over all the facilities they and their families had been denied all these years. The contrast between their prospective homes and the broken-down shacks or matsheds so many workers have lived in all their lives is something they will never forget.

On the way out the workers tried out the benches around the grassy lawn and surrounding the childrens' playgrounds.

No one seemed backward about making suggestions. There were plenty of ideas advanced by the members of our group: Perhaps the windows could be made still larger, or there should be more space for drying clothes, a family of two might have a little more room, and a host of other suggestions. However, the general consensus was that the Tsaoyang Housing Project was first rate, cooperative living on a grand scale in a neat, clean and compact community.

Their inspection tour completed, the workers walked out in deep conversation about what they had just seen: another glimpse of new China. Decent housing for ordinary working people and their children is something not even their wildest dreams would have touched before liberation.

NATIONAL GUARDIAN

For readers in China who wish to keep abreast of developments in America, the *National Guardian* may be ordered through the *China Monthly Review* for Y75,000 a year, postage included.

A short story by Chih Bu

"Home"

—Translated by Julian Schuman

THE sun was about to set. The mist hung over the pine trees on East Mountain like a green cloud and the snow on the mountain top shone like silver in the sun's last rays. Down from this solitary mountain rushed the turbulent Lan Tsang River. Even though it was still July the wind blew cool. Summer weather in Tibet is more like September back home. In my province, Anhwei, the peasants, stripped to the waist, would be reaping the *kaoliang*.

We had just heard from the political instructor that we would be moving on soon. For the past two days everyone in the outfit had been busy pulling up weeds in the wheat fields or watering the trees on the river bank. We had been working from morning until night. Hsiao Wu had said to me: "Squad leader! There are only buds on these trees now, but some day if we pass along this road we'll see people sitting around in the shade of the trees we've planted."

Looking at the land we had reclaimed with our own hands and the trees we had planted, we had a special feeling about all of it. No matter how busy we were, every day we would go and have a look at what we had done.

Although it was already dark when he got back from the infirmary, Jang Ta-hai raced down to the river bank to look at the little trees he had planted. He could not see them very clearly so he used his hands to feel the trees one by one. When he returned he was all smiles, "I've been away less than three weeks and already the branches have grown."

One day, after we had built the mountain highway, a group of us coming back to camp after gathering firewood deliberately detoured a mile or two just to use our highway. Everyone was very pleased for only a few months back, when we started work, the road was about as wide as a sheep's gut, spiralling and twisting to the top. Now, there was room for more than 10 abreast.

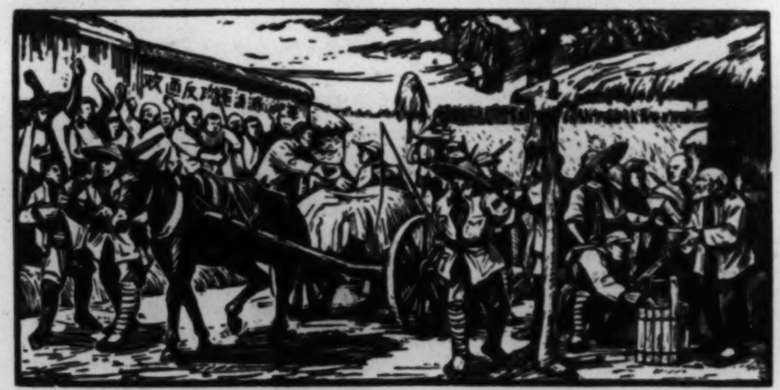
AFTER breakfast, Yishichima, the old lady living at the foot of the mountain, came to see us again. When she appeared, the company runner, Hsiao Liu, his face cracking a smile, called out: "Third squad leader! Your god-mother's here to see you!"

The reason he called her my "god-mother" goes back to March when the company commander told me to saddle up White-Nose and carry a letter to the division. My job was to deliver the letter and get back the same day. In March, at home the trees are already sprouting, but here in Tibet everything was still frozen.

On my way back, just as I started up the mountain, the snow started falling heavily and the wind from the Northwest grew violent. The snow kept coming down heavier and it was bitter cold! The mountain itself was completely wrapped in white so that you couldn't even see a crow. Halfway up I bumped into an old woman who must have been more than 60. She was carrying around 50 pounds of wheat on her back.

The old woman was going very slowly, wheezing and puffing as she came on. A gust of wind was enough to blow her back a step. Sitting on my horse, I felt very uncomfortable, thinking to myself that here I, a member of the People's Liberation Army and a soldier of Mao Tse-tung, was just sitting and looking at an old white-haired woman trying to carry a load of grain in such a storm. I wasn't happy at all!

Running through my mind was the thought that if the



Welcoming the army.

old lady in front of me were my mother I'd surely jump off the horse, lead him towards her and give her a hand. I climbed off White-Nose and tried to explain to the old woman what she should do in my broken Tibetan, and by using my hands. After I got this across to her, we flung her grain on the horse and with her leading White-Nose by the reins we went up the mountain.

We didn't get very far before she began to fall behind and I wondered how we would ever cross the top. I decided to ask her to get on the horse and, by using my hands again, I explained what I wanted her to do but she waved my suggestion aside. I then said to her, in my own version of the Tibetan language, "The sun's going down very fast and it's not good for us to go so slowly."

She understood me and got up on White-Nose. Going through knee-deep snow, we finally crossed the mountain top. The old lady lived at the bottom and I went with her to her house. She wanted me to rest a while but I declined. Before I left she asked me where I was stationed and so I told her in the village along the river bank. I got on White-Nose and crunched off through the snow.

By the time I got back and made my report on the state of the road it was dark. The company commander told me to get something to eat right away and then turn in. I felt very happy at the end of that day and I went right off to sleep as soon as I hit the bed.

* * *

LATER on, in April, the snow began to melt on the mountain. The grass started coming up, the herdsmen began leaving the village for the plains and our men commenced their planting on the slope of the mountain. My own group's spot happened to be near the old lady's house.

Yishichima, along with her 11-year old grandson, was in the midst of ploughing in preparation for planting their wheat. For an old woman and a youngster planting was no easy job and even after a great deal of effort all they could get done was a piece of ground no bigger than a mat. One comrade spoke up: "Squad leader, how about us taking a little less time out during our next break and giving the old lady a hand!"

I certainly agreed with this and just then the company commander and the political instructor came up. I told them what the men had in mind and they thought that it was a good idea.

Actually there wasn't one fellow in our outfit who hadn't worked the land. Take me for example. When I was still 14 I was already working for the landlord. For all of us, farming was nothing new and so it didn't take us very long to get the old woman's wheat planted.

From that time on, whenever she saw us she'd be bubbling over with enthusiasm. For instance, when one of us would return from somewhere and pass her door she'd be out in a flash and insist that we come in for awhile. When we went into the wheat fields to pull up weeds she would be there giving us tea while we worked.

Old people are inclined to mutter to themselves at times and when the old lady saw us she'd often repeat to her grandson: "Boy! The PLA is planting wheat . . . "

This year the weather had been fine for the crops and so she kept saying that we had brought good luck. According to Yishichima, this year's wheat had grown bigger than any other year. Looking at the wheat gave one a good feeling. Gleaming yellow in the sun, the crop was a big one.

* * *

SOME time ago I fell and injured my leg. It got steadily worse, swelling up into an ugly red so that I could hardly move it. I was lying in bed and the whole company had gone into the fields. Hsiao Wu, after boiling some water had put a kettle of it next to me, saying: "Squad leader, you just rest. I'm going out to the fields but I'll be back soon."

After he had gone off I tossed about unable to get comfortable. After a while my leg felt as if somebody were pouring water over it. I thought to myself that it must be the medic who had come to change the ointment.

However, when I opened my eyes I saw that it was Yishichima who was washing my leg with tea leaf water, using a cotton cloth to dab it very gently. I was speechless. There she was beside me, her kind face with all its wrinkles framed by the streak of white hair running down past each ear lobe. Had she not been wearing the traditional long black Tibetan gown and had she had a little black mole just under her mouth she would have been the image of my own mother.

Then there was the time when we were still working on the road and I had taken the hen I was raising and gave it to the old woman to look after. A few days later she began to come over to see me regularly. Sometimes she'd bring me a pitcher of milk, other times it would be boiled beef. Even though I refused the first time, she didn't give up. With the eggs my hen laid she would exchange them for cigarettes. Every time the old woman saw me she would pat me, and taking my hands in hers she would examine them closely, rubbing the hard callouses.

The members of my squad would say: "The old lady is just like the squad leader's god-mother." And from then on whenever she came to see me, everybody would sing out: "Third squad leader, your god-mother's coming!"

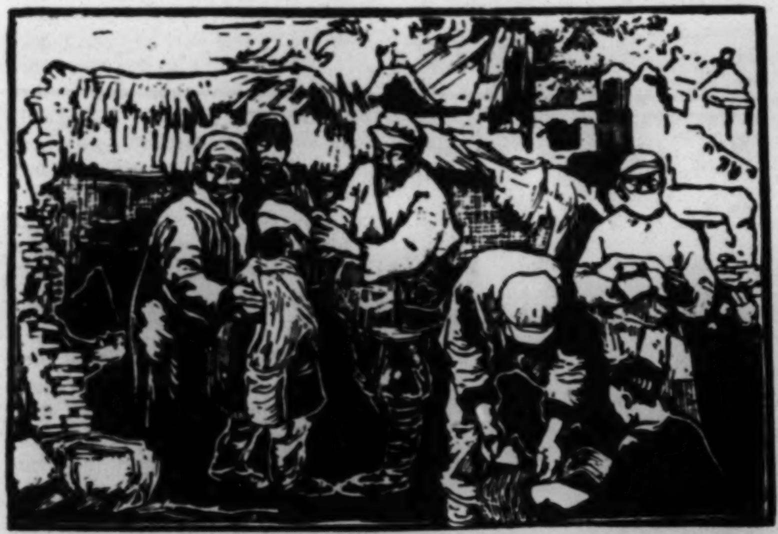
* * *

THE day before yesterday, when I asked for some time off to go see the old lady, the company commander put on a big smile and asked: "Chang Bing, you off to see your god-mother?"

I smiled back and said yes and he said: "All right, go ahead and talk to her. Take the Tibetan interpreter with you."

I took my old hen and gave it to Yishichima and told her that we would be leaving very soon.

Yesterday she came over early in the morning to take the squad's worn-out shoes and torn clothing and mend them. Many of the men asked me what we should give the old lady as a memento when we left. I couldn't think of anything until machine-gunner



Giving medical treatment to the people.

Spring ploughing.

Chang Te-fa, who made baskets for a living before, yelled out: "Let's make her a basket out of willows. She can use it to carry fertilizer as well as firewood."

Everybody shouted their "Approved!" Immediately some of the boys went to cut off willow branches, others peeled them, and with everyone working fast and furious it wasn't long before the basket was ready.

Yishichima came today, bringing back the shoes and clothes. The whole squad ganged up around her, talking and laughing like they were her own kids. Hsiao Wu, who everyone looks on as the youngster in our midst, took a pair of neatly mended shoes from the old lady's hands, snapped to attention, and with his face wreathed in smiles said: "Auntie, Salute!" Everybody laughed.

The old lady herself, the creases in her face standing out, laughed so heartily that her mouth could not close. Later, she took me off to one side and from inside her clothes brought out some money and, all smiles, put it into my hand. I quickly returned it but she put it right back, saying to me as if to a child: "Take it, you can buy something to eat for the others when you're on the way!"

I continued to refuse and she finally took the money and slowly wrapped it up again. She was most unhappy and so I got the Tibetan interpreter to explain it all. It took quite a while before she understood why a People's Liberation Army man wouldn't take her money.

* * *

YISHICHIMA reminds me of one other incident which took place back in 1949, when our troops were on their way south of the Yangtze and when we marched through Fuyang. All along the streets of this town the country people mobbed us. Some of them had gift flags, some offered wine, while the popping of firecrackers and the din of the gongs and drums was ear-splitting. An old woman, whose hair was not completely white, carrying a three or four-year old child, in whose hands were a pair of cloth shoes, cried out: "Hsiao Hsiun! Give them to your uncle!"

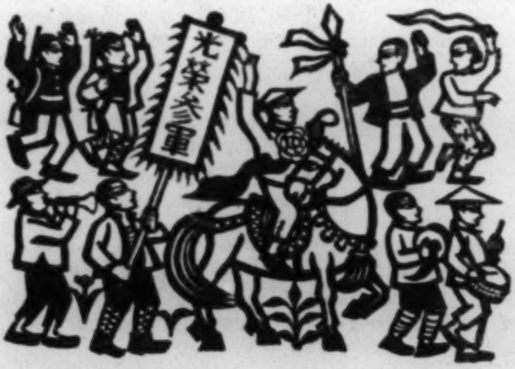
Two sparkling eyes were fixed on me. Two clever little hands pressed the shoes to my chest, the small mouth crying out: "Uncle!" When I refused the shoes, the old woman took them and put them in the pack on my back. Pointing to my face, in a very kindly manner she said: "If you don't wear these shoes when you cross the Yangtze this old lady will find it hard not to be upset!"

I didn't know what to say. I was deeply moved and couldn't help myself when tears welled up in my eyes. This incident I've never forgotten.

Of course I love my mother very much but, to tell the truth, when I think of her I also think of that old woman who gave me the shoes and I also think of Yishichima right here in Tibet. I can see all the faces of the old people I've come to know. I think of them all together and I feel that they all have something special in common.

I like my native place and if I close my eyes I can again see the small river and the sturdy trees growing there. I can still remember how after liberation we held a poor farmers' meeting in preparation for land reform. And I still can recall the time along the river bank, when we wiped out the Chiang Kai-shek bandits who were attacking the liberated area.

But now whenever I think of all those times gone by I put them together with the present; together with the Tibetan rivers and mountains, the grasslands, the trees we planted and the land we have ploughed here. All of these things cannot be separated!



Joining the army.

Peasant Stories from Yunnan

Chang Shu-I

"SPEAKING of the past, it would take more than three days and nights to tell of my suffering. It is too bitter to speak of." These were the words of a poor peasant in Yunnan province talking to government workers engaged in land reform. It is no exaggeration to say that they describe the condition of millions of Chinese peasants before liberation. Land reform has put an end to the feudal land system and, with the peasants coming into their own, a new era has arrived. The author, a student of Kunming Teachers' College, participated in land reform in Tung Hai, a small district 150 miles south of Kunming, last winter. He has noted a number of moving and representative incidents describing the feelings of new China's liberated peasants.

THE population of the small village we worked in was 2,147 while the arable land amounted to 1,657 *mou*. Before land reform, 80 percent of the land was in the hands of five landlords, one of them owning nearly 300 *mou* just along the lake. He had three wives and 20 well-trained bailiffs who plagued the peasants working his land.

More than half the population consisted of poor peasants or farm laborers. Their lives were so wretched that 20 percent did not even have bedclothes and 80 percent never tasted salt. More than 20 families were compelled to eat grass or roots dug up in the fields or along the lake. Two families, with 14 members, had only six pairs of trousers which they had to take turns wearing.

* * *

IT was the day of land confiscation. All the poor and landless peasants were gathered in the village temple, ready to carry out the dividing up of the landlords' property. The spacious courtyard became smaller and smaller as the people poured in, and the crash and clash of drums and cymbals could be heard for miles around. Somebody said: "We worked for years and years but could hardly keep body and soul together or buy a rag to wear. Even for half a *mou* of land we had to pay the landlord most of our income and as a result had to sell everything we owned."

Another voice cried out: "I can hardly believe it! My two *mou* are coming back today."

A woman was heard: "Today is the happiest day in my life. Not long ago, while I worked for the landlord in the field, my child had to eat mud and grass. Since liberation the world has really changed and the land is being returned to its masters!"

One of the biggest landlords made a great show at how accurate his listing of property was. When some peasants confronted him with a huge bundle of opium and several hundred silver dollars they had just unearthed in his pig sty his tone changed. The peasants questioned him over and over but he remained silent and abashed.

* * *

LAND reform and the Marriage Law have entirely changed the status of the women in the countryside. A women named Chow Ying had been compelled to remain single by her parents. From childhood up to the age of 35 they had not allowed her to meet any boys or men. Although there were requests for her hand in marriage all were in vain. Chow Ying's mother insisted that her daughter was too young and ignorant to marry.

One day last year, Chow Ying heard about the Marriage Law. When she mentioned it to her parents her mother told her: "Get a mirror and see for yourself. It would be a disgrace for our family if old as you are now you went and got married!" Her father chimed in: "A perfect daughter is one who devotes her life to serving her parents."

Some time later, when everybody began attending village meetings, Chow Ying made the acquaintance of a peasant in her group. When land reform started early this year she began to see things more clearly. She came to know that marriage today is based on mutual love and respect and that feudal thoughts such as her parents held were wrong. Thus, a day before the distribution of land, she and her husband-to-be went to the sub-district office to register for marriage. While they were filling out the forms, Chow Ying's mother rushed in and grabbed her daughter by the shoulder.

"I forbid it! You're not going to register!" the old woman raged.

"We are going to because Chairman Mao supports us, and anyway it's our own business," Chow Ying told her mother.

"You better stop this nonsense and come home with me or I'll let you die of starvation."

"We'll receive our own land. Who wants yours."

At this point the government worker in the office addressed the mother: "Nowadays marriage is up to the individuals concerned. The government will punish anyone interfering with other people's marriages."

Some of the villagers who had gathered around persuaded the old lady not to persist and she reluctantly went off home. Watching the retreating figure of Chow Ying's mother, one of the women said: "This is a perfect example of what the Marriage Law means for us women. How could Chow Ying get married if there wasn't such a law to protect her?"

* * *

THE night before the conclusion of land reform the chief topic was recalling the past, comparing it with the present and laying plans for the future.

A woman told me: "Before liberation ordinary peasants found it difficult to buy a small piece of land even if they somehow managed to scrape together the price. One had to invite at least two village clerks to prepare the document and ask the village head and the leading landlords to witness the proceedings. If the prospective buyer only entertained them with a few dishes of food, these 'guests' would overturn the table, smash everything and go off shouting 'You're not qualified to own land!' Now, my family of six has been given eight *mou* without paying for it and without having to crawl before such scoundrels. Formerly, we were forced to live in

a miserable and bare hut. Today we have four rooms with good furniture and kitchen utensils. No longer do we dread the discomfort brought on by the rainy weather and, moreover, we have been given an ox, something the family could never have afforded in the past even if we had saved for generations!"

"I also received land and clothes," another woman said. "I remember the baby we couldn't afford to keep in Chiang's time. We never had enough to eat and so my husband was forced to leave it in the fields the third day after its birth. It was a sad occasion for a woman to give birth then, but since liberation it has become a happy event. Even my new baby has been allotted one *mou* of land."

"When I grow up I'm going to fight the American invaders," a 14 year-old orphan who had worked in a landlord's house said. "In the old days I had the landlord's baby strapped on my back all day. I slept in a dirty corner under the stairway. The old dog's kids kicked and beat me whenever they wanted. Now I have a piece of land, a good room, shoes and clothes. Uncle Li has promised to help me with my land so that I can go to school like other children."

AN AMERICAN'S TRIP BY TRUCK:

THROUGH THE NORTHWEST

WALTER ILLSLEY

ALTHOUGH there now are regular passenger buses running from Lanchow right up to Tihua, the capital of Chinese Turkestan, my preference is still for the old way of travelling by ordinary truck sitting on one's bedding roll on top of the load from where you can get a good view of the desert plain and snow-capped mountains that make the magnificent scenery of Northwest China.

I took my baggage out through the East Gate of the Sandan city wall and waited at the roadside inn where the truckers usually stop for a meal. The first truck along was a new four-ton Soviet Zis belonging to the People's Liberation Army. I showed the army driver a note stating that I was on the technical staff of the Sandan Bailie School and on authorized travel and he agreed to take me the 450 kilometers to Lanchow which was the end of his run.

There were only three other passengers on the truck so there was plenty of room. Moreover, the truck was carrying only 24 drums of gas which just comes to four tons. The familiar sight of the Kuomintang days of trucks, groaning along under a full legal load plus two or three tons of illicit cargo plus 20 to 30 "yellow fish" (passengers who pay the driver for a ride) clinging on top is definitely a thing of the past. One saw a little of it for a short while after the change-over when a large number of old KMT drivers had been taken over by the PLA, but the intensive group study among the drivers soon developed an *esprit de corps* among them that brought a virtual end to all the old practices.

The other passengers turned out to be from Sinkiang on their way to meetings in Sian. One was a Turki national minority representative and the other two were young government workers, one a native of Manchuria and the other from near Peking. The Turki had never been that far east before and the two Chinese had made the trip in to Sinkiang by air, so for all of them it was the first time over the Northwest highway.

The two Chinese wanted to know particularly what natural resources were to be found in the range of mountains that paralleled the road while the Turki asked about the local livestock and agriculture. He wasn't much impressed by the local sheep, remarking that up in Sinkiang they now had new breeding stock that were much larger and had finer wool. They all spoke enthusiastically about the mechanized farms and the various light and heavy industries that are being developed in Sinkiang. With its very extensive reserves of coal, minerals and petroleum China's Northwest—Sinkiang, Kansu, Chinghai and Ninghsia—almost as large as all of Europe and but sparsely inhabited, is certain to become one of the important industrial regions of the world.

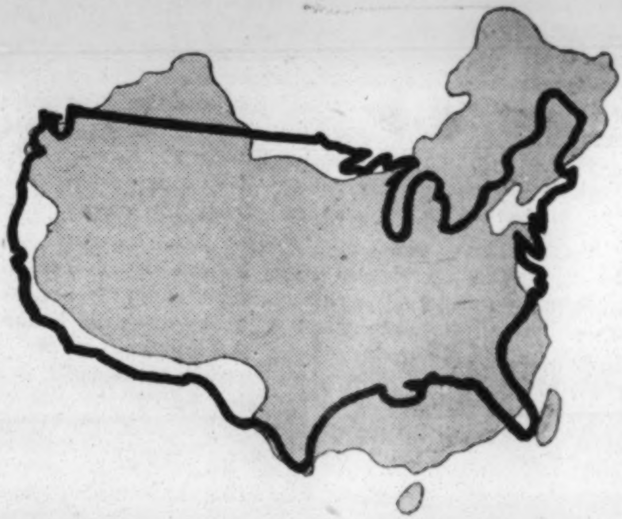
The chief difficulty at present is transportation and that is rapidly being overcome with the construction of the Northwest railway which will eventually go right through to Tihua and link up well to the European side of the midpoint of the Soviet Trans-Siberian Railway. The distance still to be built is about as far as from Los Angeles to Chicago, but it will cut almost 2,000 miles from the railroad distance between the center of China and Soviet and European industrial regions.

From the highway we saw surveying parties, strung along at frequent intervals for some 400 kilometers ahead of the actual railway construction. Advance engineering offices have been set up as far ahead as Yungteng and Wuwei, and on the highway one sees the broad cabbed new Czechoslovakian Praha trucks belonging to the Northwest Railway Administration.

As we travelled along I noticed that the driver stopped every 30 kilometers to check his tires and oil and water. He explained to me that in the drivers' discussion groups they had decided to adopt this method to avoid waste by prevention. And as it turned out we saw the wisdom of this precaution when just after dusk we stopped for a check up and discovered a puncture in one of the tires. Driving much further might well have ruined the casing before anything was noticed. Of course, one might make a hundred stops and find nothing but with the new emphasis on caring for the "people's equipment" drivers willingly stop the 100 times to catch something wrong the 101st.

We saw another example of this painstaking care of equipment when we stopped to eat. It is a common practice among the better drivers in China, where trucks make trips of several

China and the United States



CHINA	*UNITED STATES*
4,038,000 square miles	*3,022,000 square miles*

China is a country of vast distances as this outline of the US placed over a map of China shows.

days or even a month and must stand fully loaded night after night, to jack the frame up about four inches and set it on props in order to take the weight off the springs and tires. But our army driver went to this trouble whenever we stopped just an hour for a meal.

When it came time to pay for our breakfast the first day I saw another sign of the times. According to old Chinese custom I would offer to pay for the entire meal as I was being given a ride on the truck, and at the same time the driver should insist on paying my bill since I was in a way his guest and this situation could only have been settled by considerable polite but animated protestation back and forth. When I offered to pay, however, the driver said quite directly, "Nowadays we don't do it that way. You pay for yours and we'll pay for ours. Anyway we have a regular allowance for meals and I suppose you have too."

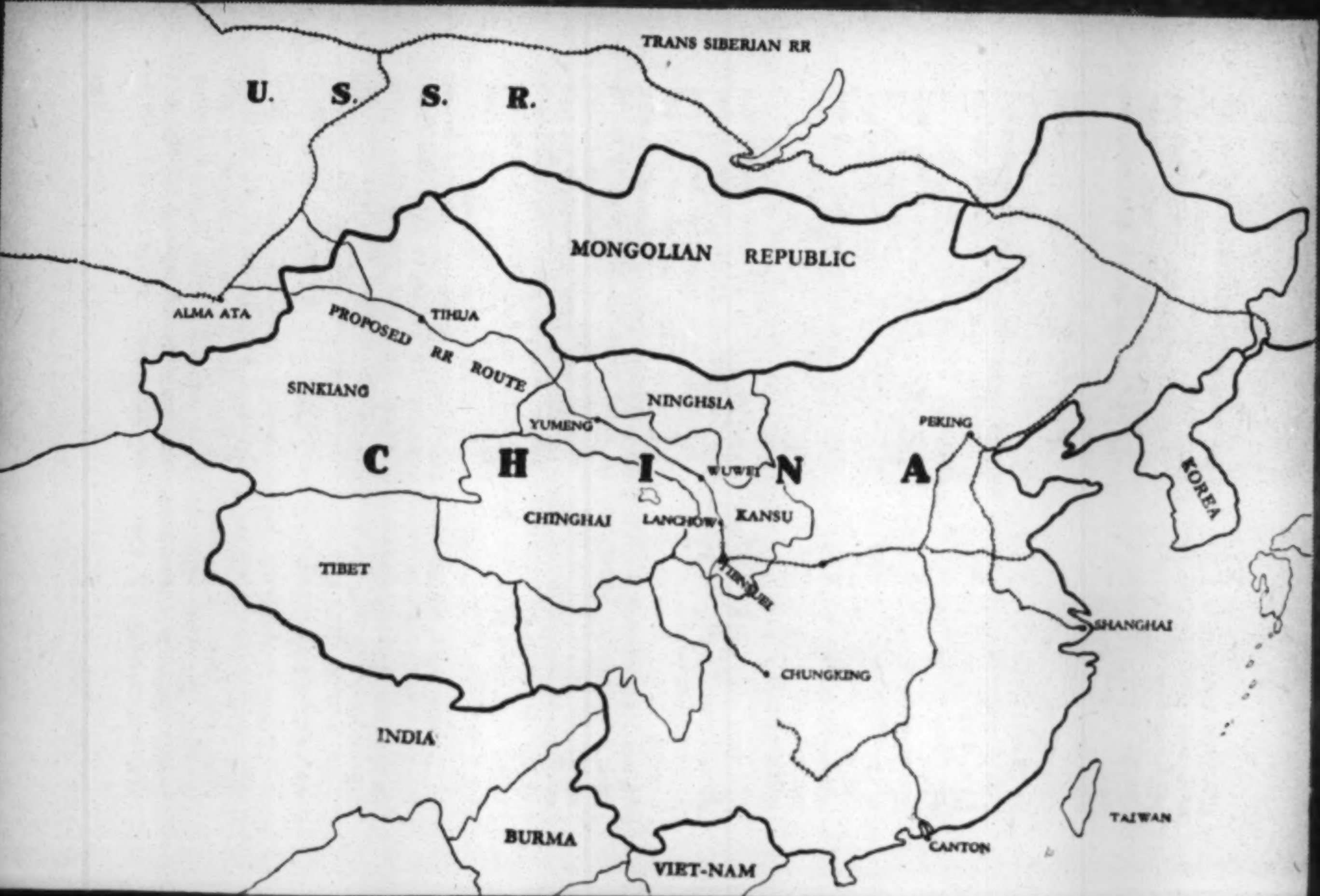
No doubt certain adherents of old Chinese customs will point to things like this as the "destruction" of a fine old culture. But this aspect of the emerging code of ethics cannot be separated from new straightforwardness that does not countenance carrying "yellow fish" and illegal cargo.

Toward noon we crossed the 10,000-foot pass at Wu Ssa Ling. The little hamlet one goes through just before coming to the pass was all decked out in red flags and streamers and what appeared to be the entire population was sitting in front of the schoolhouse attending a meeting for the drive to increase agricultural production.

Out along the highway we saw signs of the production drive too. In many places new irrigation ditches were under construction and in several places along the roadside there were freshly felled tree trunks which were being hollowed out for flumes. In one place where the highway passed through a cut, such a flume was being bridged right over the highway to carry water to fields on higher land. We also met several trucks coming up the highway loaded with the new irrigation pumps which use oxen or horses for power. These are being manufactured at a rate of more than 50 a day in Lanchow and supplied on a very favorable hire-purchase basis to farmers in the area.

Along with irrigation a great effort is being put into leveling off new fields and filling in gullies in old fields that had been abandoned and neglected for years. In most places this work was being done by the recently formed mutual aid teams which were easy to pick out at a distance because of the red banner that flies gayly from a pole wherever the teams are working.

These mutual aid teams have a special significance since they are the first step in the eventual collectivization of agriculture. At this stage interested peasants are encouraged to get together for the heavy tasks of breaking new land, building irrigation ways, ploughing, seeding and harvesting. Each individual retains his own fields and other property, but tools,


TRANS SIBERIAN RR
U. S. S. R.
MONGOLIAN REPUBLIC
ALMA ATA
TIHUA
PROPOSED RR ROUTE
SINKIANG
NINGHSIA
YUMENG
PEKING
C H I N A
WUWEI
KOREA
CHINGHAI
LANCHOW
KANSU
TIENSHUI
TIBET
SHANGHAI
CHUNGKING
INDIA
BURMA
VIET-NAM
CANTON
TAIWAN

animals and labor are pooled for more efficient use. The results in many places have been surprisingly successful and in some localities the peasants already are sufficiently confident in the advantages of group effort to undertake the organization of cooperative farms where the land too, although still the individual's property, is joined with neighboring fields for group cultivation. Complete collectivization will presumably follow when the people can see its advantages.

As one comes into Lanchow the highway runs along with the Yellow River boiling below on the one side and bare mountains rising on the other. At several places the rock is a good grade of limestone suitable for railway ballast and there were hundreds of people sitting in little groups with small hammers breaking up ballast. It was just dusk as we were coming in and the paymasters were going from group to group measuring the square piles of finished rock. Apparently the work was there for anybody who cared to come. A number of the groups we passed were made up of school children who had come to work a couple of hours after classes and do their bit for the Northwest railway and earn pocket money, too.

• • •

ALTHOUGH I had been in Lanchow several times since liberation I was surprised this time at the number of Mongols, Tibetans and Turkis—both men and women, on the streets. Then I learned that the new school for national minorities was located here.

It was interesting to compare this atmosphere with the traditional hostility of the pre-liberation era. Even in a small place such as Sandan there had been ample evidence of it. The city itself was divided into two sections with a high wall around the main part and then a lower wall with separate gates around the southern section which was the Moslems' quarter and included the mosque. For a period after the Moslem uprisings at the end of the 19th century, when on one occasion Moslems had betrayed the city by opening the gates at night, no Moslems were allowed to live in the Chinese part of the city. Outside the East Gate stood the "White Bone Memorial" containing the bones of the Moslems who had been massacred in one of the risings.

Ala Shan Mongols when making their annual pilgrimage to the Panchen Lama at Kumbum would come by horse or camel as far as Sandan and then wait, often for days, in order to catch a school truck to take them on because they were never sure what treatment they might get at the hands of other truckers, particularly of the Kuomintang army.

In the face of this deep-seated distrust the new policy toward minorities is being carried forward very conscientiously and effectively. Each minority is assured full political rights with its own representation in the government and is given special economic assistance usually in the form of marketing arrangements for its products. At the same time the minorities are encouraged to develop their traditional customs and music and art as well as learn to read and write their own languages, and troupes of their artists and musicians are invited to all parts of China. In this way each group comes to enjoy a healthy pride in its own cultural heritage.

For the Tibetans the most convincing sign of the times has undoubtedly been the new tea policy. In the days of the old Chinese Empire and the Kuomintang as well, the tea trade was closely controlled by the government. Lanchow was the officially designated "port of entry" of tea for the northern Tibetans. Chinese merchants would buy a government license in Lanchow to bring in a shipment of tea. Then they would buy semi-cured tea in Central China and take it north to Sian where it was pressed in a giant press made of entire tree trunks into 20 lb. bricks which were transported about 24 days by camel to Lanchow.

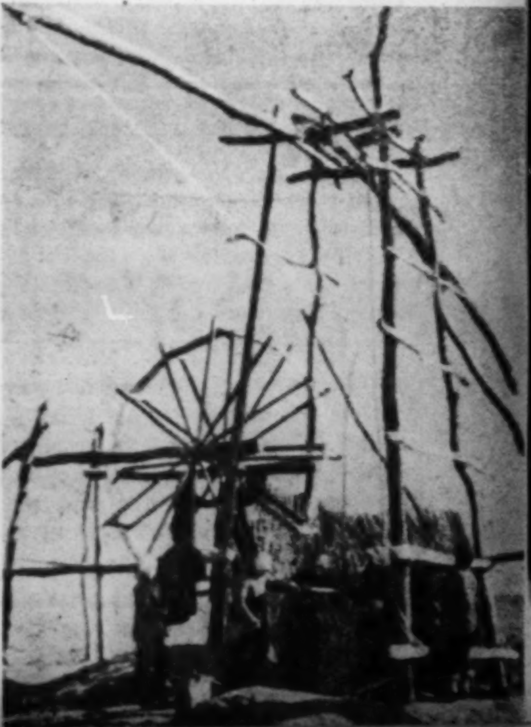
Thus about a year and a half after the license was first purchased the tea was traded for Tibetan wool, hides, furs and silver. The Tibetans were forbidden to raise their own tea and as tea is essential to their diet they were forced to pay high prices including heavy imperial taxes for the Chinese tea and received very low prices for their own products. Now the tea taxes have been reduced and it is handled by the consumer cooperatives which exchange it at fair prices for Tibetan products. And, above all, the Tibetans are now being encouraged to plant tea in their own southern valleys where the climate is suitable.

I left Lanchow on a truck of the China Petroleum Company which was taking kerosene to Tiensuei. Outside the city one saw a great deal of railway construction activity. Most of the earth work was being done with wicker baskets on men's backs, but there were also crawler cranes and air compressors and bulldozers at work, particularly on the bridges and tunnels. At one site I counted 14 bulldozers.

Not far from Lanchow we also saw a crew drilling for artesian water. This is one of the projects of the Department of Agriculture for increasing irrigated land and is entirely new in the Northwest. The drill rig was of the type developed through centuries by the Szechuenese salt well operators. It consists of a wooden derrick across the top of which is mounted a 20 foot wooden bow looking like some giant bow and arrow. The metal drill bit is hung by a split bamboo rope from the middle of the bow string just short of the bottom of the borehole. Then four or five men pull on the rope in rhythmic unison and the bow acts as an efficient spring to keep the bit bouncing against the bottom of the hole with a minimum of power. As the hole goes down the drill rope is lengthened. Water is poured down the hole to turn the drillings into mud and a bamboo tube with a flap valve in the bottom is lowered occasionally to keep the hole bailed out.

This method of well sinking is probably one of the engineering wonders of the world since the salt wells were drilled this way through rock as deep as many modern oil wells long before even the wire rope was invented. True it is not as efficient as modern drilling machinery, but where modern equipment is not yet available, new China is utilizing her ancient skills.

As our truck pulled into the mountain village of Hwa Chialing, a favorite eating place of all the truckers along that road, we found the right-of-way practically blocked by trucks of an army convoy parked on both



Szechuen salt drilling rig.

sides of the highway. Our driver, Cheng, hesitated a moment and then started to inch through in low gear. But he had forgotten about the blackboard that was hung on the side of his truck stating his gasoline and tire mileage and other performance records as part of the competition between drivers for efficiency. The board snagged and ripped one of the army truck tarpaulins.

My mind instinctively recalled the numerous incidents I had seen between civilian truckers and the old Kuomintang army drivers which, no matter who was at fault, often flared up with angry brandishing of pistols by the army and on the spot payments by the civilian of several times the amount of the damage.

And in that moment a number of army drivers did appear out of the nearest inn. There was an animated inspection of the damage and then together with our driver they went off to another inn where other truckers and the convoy commander were eating. It was some 20 minutes before Cheng came back.

We asked him if he had to pay anything. "No," he said, "I offered to pay to have their tarp fixed and to give them a piece of ours to patch theirs, but they wouldn't have it. They said it was their own fault because they had parked on both sides of the road and hadn't left room for traffic to get through."

"Then why did it take so long?" we asked.

"Their drivers wanted to know if I had been angry and driven right through with the idea 'it'll serve them right if some of their paint gets rubbed off' and in that case it would show I had no regard for the people's property. And they said if it wasn't that, then maybe I hesitated to get out and criticize them because they were the army and nowadays it's our duty to make constructive criticism wherever we can."

It was still daylight when we arrived in Tiensuei and before going to the railway station I had a last meal with driver Cheng and his helper. They both asked when I would be coming back to the Northwest and added that at the end of 1952 the preparations would be completed and the real construction program would get underway. Technical people would be needed then and I should be sure to come back, they said.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Germ War Against US POW's

SPREADING of germ warfare against US prisoners of war in Korea has been added to the missions of the American air force. In addition to carrying out numerous bombings and strafings of POW camps during the past several months, on June 6, US planes dropped infested ants over POW Camp No. 3 in Changsong and Camp No. 7 in Pyok-tong.

According to a *Hsinhua* dispatch from Kaesong, one US POW, Charles G. Pixley, in Camp No. 3, who took part in exterminating the ants was infected in the course of the work. After 24 hours, he lost consciousness, vomited, suffered severe abdominal pains and had to be hospitalized.

A record of US bombing and strafing of POW camps in North Korea this year reveals they were carried out on January 14, March 16, May 4, May 5 and May 11. A number of POW's and personnel attached to the camps were killed and wounded.

* * *

WHILE the Americans clung to their hoax of "voluntary repatriation" of Korean and Chinese prisoners in order to forestall a Korean armistice the British press evidenced grave doubts about US "screening" methods which claimed more than 100,000 men refused to return to their own side.

"The chaos in the prisoner of war camps and the incompetence of some of the American officers in charge of them has inevitably thrown doubt on the efficiency with which the prisoners were screened." (*London Times*, May 24)

The *New Statesman and Nation* said on May 17: "Doubts are strengthened by the presence of Chinese Nationalists [Kuomintang] among the staffs supervising the camps . . . There is little difficulty in guessing the real functions of any Kuomintang (or South Korean) officials permitted to mix with the prisoners, or brought from Formosa [Taiwan]. . ."

The same publication on May 31 said: "There has clearly been muddle, mismanagement and worse on the part of the American camp authorities . . . and it is now impossible to accept the American 'no-repatriation' totals as accurate. . . .

If some of the compounds have been under Communist control, and if US troops have been unable to enter them how was it possible to conduct the 'poll' of prisoners which the Americans claim to have taken between April 4 and April 18 . . . "

Even the rabidly anti-Communist *Time* magazine, on June 2, gave a hint at the extent of the US hoax in Korea: ". . . Worst of all, observers were beginning to realize that the prisoner vote on repatriation, which at first had seemed the only creditable and politically valuable aspect of the whole affair, had not been arrived at by the UN in a true and careful polling, but was in some cases a rough & ready guess. . . . The struggle went on in the hospital camp on the mainland, near Pusan, as well as on bloody Koje Island. Under such conditions, no fair or complete balloting on political preference was possible. . . . In presenting the figures as if every prisoner had been specifically consulted, the UN made a serious mistake," *Time* mournfully reported.

According to official US figures, only 70,000 Korean and Chinese POW's are willing to be repatriated. Yet an *AP* story appearing in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on May 28 reported a news conference on Koje Island in which General Van Fleet said: "The toughest 1,100 prisoners were moved Thursday (from Pusan) to Koje Island, where 80,000 already are held."

At the end of April a *USIS* report from Munsan in South Korea said: "Those asking to be repatriated were kept in prison camps on Koje Island . . . those who said they did not want to be returned were transferred to camps on the mainland." Thus the Americans are having a hard time making the figures jibe in their official press reports.

Old Wine in New Bottle

THE recent reshuffle in the puppet Bao Dai government in Viet-Nam evidences the continued failure of the French colonialists to defeat the people's liberation movement. The replacement of Bao Dai's premier Tran Van Huu by Nguyen Van Tam once again illustrates the instability of the French-American puppet regime and the basic difficulties besetting their policy of using Viet-Namese to fight the people of Viet-Nam.

By setting up a "new" government the Americans and French hope to speed up the creation of a puppet army to reinforce the badly mauled French forces which are facing an acute manpower shortage as a result of heavy losses inflicted by Ho Chi Minh's Viet-Nam People's Army.

Despite napalm bombings and large-scale US assistance, the growing opposition of the French people at home and anti-war sentiment among the troops in Viet-Nam has necessitated a policy of more dependence on "native" troops. On April 20, *Reuter* reported that "France has lost more officers each year in the Indo-China conflict than graduated from her military academy, according to M. Jean Monnet, chief economic planner of the French government." Said Monnet: "I cannot overemphasize the drain which this war imposes on France, a drain both in materials, goods and . . . precious human resources."

NOTWITHSTANDING the optimisim announcing the reshuffling of posts in the puppet government, the hopelessness of the Bao Dai clique is apparent. A striking similarity with the discarded Chiang Kai-shek regime of China exists. Just as Chiang has been called the "supply sergeant" for the Chinese liberation forces, the Bao Dai crowd, by its corrupt practices, which range from blackmarketeering to selling supplies to the Viet-Nam people's forces, has been performing the same service.

Writing in the Paris *Observateur*, Claude Bourdet reported that the puppet government has been selling US equipment to the Viet-Nam forces in the Kuomintang pattern, that the Bank of Indo-China and speculators in the piastre-franc exchange racket are making huge profits and that French policy in Viet-Nam is largely dictated by the desire to keep Indo-China in a state of war.

Some idea of the "supplying" activities of the Bao Dai supporters was given in a *UP* dispatch from Hanoi on May 5. According to this report, "Hanoi, the French bastion in North Indo-China, is a main Communist supply source . . . "

" . . . rebels infiltrating through the French Union perimeter around the Tonking capital are able to buy freely such supply items as American-made military belts, ammunition bags, pistol holsters and canteens . . . A reporter touring the market with a French intelligence officer found all these goods on sale. Some were new and others appeared to have been salvaged from the fighting. 'Right in the streets of the city the enemy can buy this equipment,' the officer said. 'We cannot stop it.'"

An even more important source of supply for the VPA has been the huge stocks of military equipment captured from the French and their puppet troops.

Another US General Talks

THE lot of an American general in Korea who may blurt out the truth is not a happy one. Generals Dodd and Colson, who admitted to the use of force against Korean and Chinese prisoners on Koje Island in the US "screening" for "voluntary repatriation," were given an official tongue-lashing, relieved of their commands and reduced to the rank of colonel. The case of Major-General Hudelson, Commander of the 40th Infantry Division in Korea is another example of a general who talked too much.

On June 8 Hudelson, on his return to the US, said that Chinese and Korean troops "could drive the UN armies out of Korea any time they decided to attack. . . Asked if he believed Allied troops could throw back the Communists, Hudelson said: 'I am certain not.' " (*AP*, June 9)

Two days later Hudelson told reporters in Los Angeles that the army "has warned him that any further public statements he makes should be released through regular military channels." (*AP*, June 10) On the same day Hudelson told the *Chicago Tribune* correspondent: "I have to shut up for the time being, but I'll have plenty to say when I do get out of the army. I have said that I'm not sure why we are even fighting the war in Korea. If I felt that way, how could I expect the men under me to know why they were fighting there?"

"It was disclosed today that the army has asked 6th Army Headquarters in San Francisco to question . . . Hudelson about his published statement that the Communists could drive UN troops from Korea any time they chose." (*UP*, June 10)

Two days later Hudelson ". . . received an administrative reprimand . . . A 6th Army spokesman said that General Hudelson would be relieved of active duty in a few days . . . " (*Reuter*, June 13)

Japan Rearms for US

JAPAN'S made-in-America government is already carrying out one of its chief assignments—making arms and weapons for the US army. Japanese press accounts reveal that Japan is scheduled to supply weapons, not only for Korea, but for all of Asia.

The commercial newspaper *Nihon Keizai* reported that America apparently has decided to let Japan produce rapidly increasing orders for weapons and ammunition. "A major part of these munitions are to be used in the Far East and Southeast Asia," the paper declared. (*AP*, June 14) The same item quoted the US Far East Command as assuring Japanese manufacturers that their weapons business would be permanent.

Earlier press reports noted that Japanese munitions manufacturers "may soon use former Pacific War government arsenals to supply American troops with shells and gunpower." (*Reuter* May 26) The arsenals had formerly been set aside for possible reparation payments.

* * *

WHILE Yoshida's government acts as munitions manufacturer for Washington, American financial penetration of Japan becomes more open. The *Kyodo News Agency* reported that the Japanese Foreign Investment Commission has revealed that the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company and other big oil firms own 50 percent or more of the stock of a number of Japan's major oil companies.

American interests hold the lion's share of 6,000,000,000 yen of foreign investments in Japanese enterprises. Oil, rubber, leather, trade, aeronautics, chemicals and machinery are where investments are heaviest. Many Japanese companies have actually become branches or agencies of foreign firms.

Even before the Yoshida government was granted its "independence" by Washington an open drive was on for relaxation of foreign investment laws in Japan. Harold Bache, senior partner of the New York investment firm Bache and Company, in a series of letters to Japanese officials, stressed that no businessman would make a heavy investment in Japan unless free to take out his original investment at any time. (*UP*, April 21)

As early as April revisions of Japan's foreign investment law then under consideration by the Yoshida government included a provision that foreign investors may begin taking out their principal capital three years after making the investment at the rate of 20 percent per year.

Malayan Rubber Crisis

HARD hit by the big drop in rubber prices in May, business circles in Malaya are hoping for resumption of trade with China. For almost the first time in its history, Malaya has been showing a trade deficit.

Blame for the crisis has been laid at Washington's doorstep. Rubber produced in Malaya cannot be sold in sufficient quantities because the British are carrying out the US-imposed embargo restricting rubber sales to the Soviet Union and China.

Businessmen have pointed out the serious effects of the embargo and that "the embargo helped the US achieve a de facto monopoly of some raw materials as it is practically the only large purchaser of tin and rubber." (*Agence France Presse*, May 17) Rubber accounts for about 67 percent of Malayan exports and its price collapse caused trade to tend dangerously toward the deficit side.

The same *AFP* dispatch went on to say that business sources in Malaya believe the rubber price cave-in to be more serious than the "Communist insurrection." The situation was becoming precarious to the small middle plantations which account for more than half of the total production. Wage cuts were imminent in order to avoid large-scale unemployment, *AFP* reported.

The Labor Party of Singapore has called on the British government to release Malayan rubber for export to China and the Soviet Union. The former secretary of the party, Peter M. Williams, said that the only remedy to the sudden and persistent drop in rubber prices lay in an extended market. He warned that if this state of affairs went unchecked the "economic repercussions besides political and industrial unrest . . . will be very serious . . . "

By June there was growing unemployment in the rubber industry. More than five major factories had closed down by June 5, *Reuter* reported from Singapore.

Report to Readers

WE had an interesting time talking with several of the delegates who had attended the Preparatory Peace Conference in Peking in early June and later came through Shanghai on their tour of the country. We were particularly glad for the opportunity for often we feel we're working in something of a vacuum. Most of our readers now are abroad—in the United States, England, Canada, Australia, India and Southeast Asia—and often we wonder just what they most want to know about China.

The delegates gave us several ideas. They were looking at this country through fresh eyes. Many things, which we take quite for granted, having experienced the changes from day to day over the past three years, struck them as most important.

For instance, all of them spoke of the "great spirit of the people" in building a new China. This is something that has impressed us, too, but it's not easy to explain. When you start writing about the "new spirit," the "great enthusiasm," and so on it usually begins to sound like a Sunday School report. We'll be interested in hearing how the delegates explain it to their friends at home.

Then all of them spoke about the huge population of this country. On their train trip, their voyage up the Yangtze and flying over the countryside, everywhere they saw cultivated land, small villages and hundreds and hundreds of people. At the big Yangtze River conservancy project at Shasi they saw tens of thousands of people mobilized in dredging the detention basin. Two of the delegates said that on first sight their immediate reaction was that it must be forced labor.

It wasn't until the second day when they went down to the construction site, talked with individual workers, saw the cultural and educational programs provided for them and witnessed at first hand the real spirit of the workers that they realized the people were voluntarily organized to carry out this important work that will bring benefits to themselves and to their country.

"It's the human interest angle you should keep in mind," one delegate told us. "Tell your readers stories of

LETTERS

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have now taken to simple dress and food.

During the movement, some die-hards have come around through criticism and self-criticism, the most powerful weapon in the struggle. Those who before were too conceited to receive criticism made by their fellow students have become modest men. They even helped other students in overcoming difficulties.

More than 300 students of our university have pledged to join the New Democratic Youth League.

YANG CHING-HSIN
Nankai University, Tientsin

REPORT TO READERS

the daily life of individuals so they, too, can understand what's really happened here."

Another said, "Give us more maps and fact about China. Most people in my country have only the haziest idea about China, but they're getting more interested."

A good idea and we'll start right here: Land reform has made it possible to collect the first reliable statistics on the population of China. The Kuomintang government was unable to gather these figures for the peasants knew any official asking questions was a harbinger of trouble—an increase in taxes or a hike in the local conscription quota—so the less said the better. The situation was completely reversed by land reform. Every member of the family was entitled to his share of land, so everybody was accounted for.

The new province of Pingyuan in North China was originally thought to have a population of 12,000,000, but land reform statistics showed a population of close to 20,000,000. Country-wide figures are still not in for land reform has not been completed in all the border areas, but the present estimate is well over 500,000,000, or about one-fourth of the world!

* * *

SHANGHAI is having a real housecleaning in the campaign to improve sanitation and prevent disease. In addition to the free inoculations against cholera, plague, typhoid, typhus and so on which everyone in the city is taking in earnest this year, especially because of the germ warfare, the streets, alleyways, backyards and garbage bins are getting a good scrubbing.

We had a particularly good view of how it's being carried out from our office windows

DEFEND PEACE

To the Editor:

Recently the American and British imperialists have committed a series of crimes which threatens world peace Unwilling to admit their defeat on the Korean front, the US warmongers launched bacteriological warfare—a crime even the Hiterite gangs hesitated to commit—attempting the mass destruction of the civilian population of both Korea and China. At the same time, they also tried various tactics to stall the Korean ceasefire talks.

On the British side, the Hongkong British government deported a number of progressive Chinese residing in Hongkong, and more recently, illegally ordered the Hongkong Ta Kung Pao to suspend publication for six months. All these provocative actions are intolerable to the peace-loving people

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which open on an inside court or well. The bottom was always a discouraging sight, littered with more than its share of rubbish in which an ever-growing number of rats foraged. In the old days we jokingly used to speculate on how long it would be before the pile "grew" up to our third floor windows.

After liberation, as the civic spirit of the building's tenants and owners improved, the bottom of the court received an occasional cleaning and the daily deluge of waste paper, apple cores and what not that usually rained down from all seven floors began to slacken off.

Then, in June, the tenants and the landlord jointly organized a clean-up day and really went to work. Offices were cleaned out, halls, steps, washrooms, everything was scrubbed. Most of one afternoon was spent on the well, with even the walls of the building getting a good hosing. The drains were cleaned out, holes in the cement patched and the whole place tidied up — and, what's more, it seems to be staying that way. Only occasional bits of paper blow out the windows now and every day the court is swept.

We can't say we're looking out on a garden now, but at least it's clean. And since all of us in the building had a hand in the cleaning it's a pretty safe bet that it'll stay that way.

* * *

SHANGHAI'S movie theaters continue playing to packed houses, with many shows sold out day after day. Partially it is because the movies have shown a marked improvement over the past three years and partially because, with their rising standard of living, more and more working people are all over the world.

In order to smash the imperialists' conspiracy and defend world peace, we Chinese people throughout the country should fervently respond to Chairman Mao's call to increase production, practice economy and support the Chinese People's Volunteers. Workers and peasants should step up their production, while the students should intensify their political study.

As a college student, I am determined to take part in the patriotic movements which are taking place in our university.

MAO HSIANG-LIN

Szechuen University, Chengtu

REPORT TO READERS

becoming regular movie fans. To meet this growing demand, one new theater has recently been built in a working class district and another is under construction, while traveling movie projection teams now tour the city regularly, giving showings in halls, auditoriums and workers' clubs.

The indomitable fighting spirit of the Korean people in the face of the brutal invasion of their land was forcefully brought to the screen in the Korean produced movie "Young Guerillas" which recently opened in Shanghai. The scene is laid in a North Korean town temporarily occupied by the Americans in the autumn of 1950.

Spearheaded by a group of young Koreans, the resistance of the townfolk to all the indignities and oppressive acts of the invaders and their puppets is the story of why victory belongs to the people of Korea. Making up this group of young guerillas are many teen-agers such as the young boy whose mother and brother are shot before his eyes.

Told in terms of what has happened all over Korea, this movie is a terrible indictment of Korea's invaders and their contempt for the people, and at the same time it paints with firm strokes a moving picture of the struggle of a people determined to keep their country free and to have a government of their own choice.

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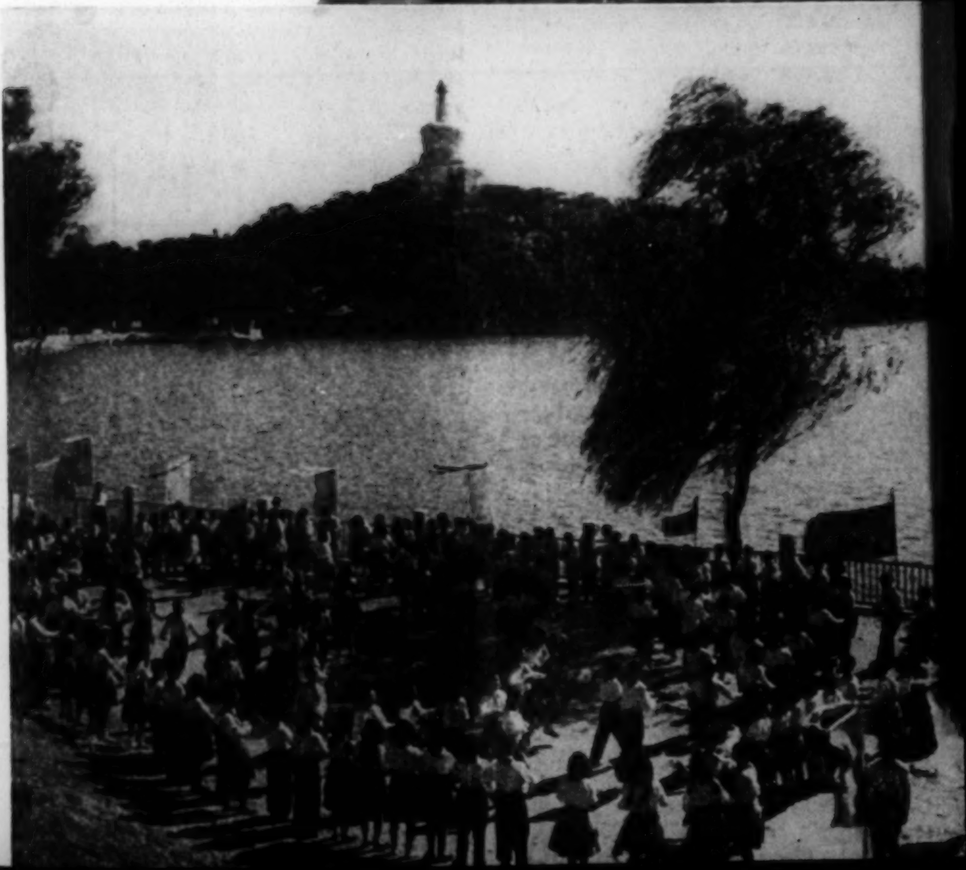
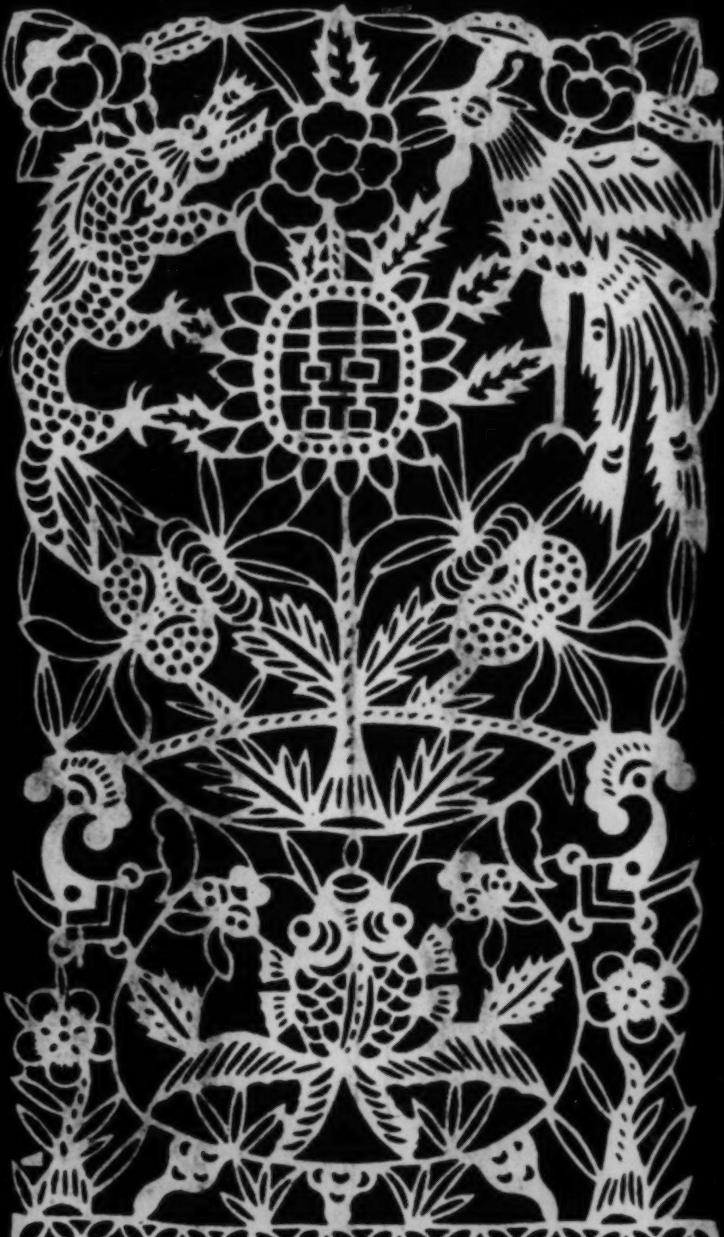
YOUNG CHINA STUDIES AND PLAYS

Right: Young Pioneers study the workings of a small-scale steam engine.

Below: Boys and girls singing and dancing across the lake from Peking's famous White Pagoda.

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